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Summary of News.

Monday, 13th October.

THE *Broad Arrow* in referring to the recent ride of a foreign officer from Bombay to Calcutta, says:—The Austrian officer is doubtless very proud of this tremendous achievement, but from a common-sense point of view it is difficult to see its significance. The route taken was one in which difficulties must have had to be manufactured, and the only really noteworthy fact connected with the exploit is the conduct of the Goanese servant who so faithfully followed his foolish master on a country-bred pony. As for hardships in the commissariat line, let Austrian officers read the story of MacGregor and Lockwood's travels in Beluchistan—where life simply depended upon finding water within a given number of hours in an apparently waterless desert—before they talk of the discomfort of a ride in a civilized country such as five hundred English officers could be found to undertake to-morrow, if any practical good were to be gained by the process.

MR. MASKELYNE is not to be outdone by the Mahatmas. The sending of letters by aerial messengers when nobody happens to be looking is nothing to what that popular magician promises at the Egyptian Hall. A human being is to be disintegrated and precipitated invisibly through space, whilst held by a committee chosen from among the spectators. The hall will be closed to the public, and kept in Egyptian darkness, the day being set apart for the special training and self-denial of the performers, to render them in a fit frame of mind to receive a knowledge of the secret forms of nature. These initiates in occultism, it appears, have solemnly vowed never to wield these dangerous forces for their own selfish ends.

THE Prince of Wales is a diligent collector of pipes, but he is not the only one among European royalties who indulges in the "collecting fad." The Czar of All the Russias, for instance, collects stamps and the eggs of birds of prey; William of Germany has a fine collection of autographs, the passion for which he shares with his "brothers" the Kings of Roumania and Sweden. The Queen of Italy again gathers in what shoes and gloves she can that have been worn by Sovereigns of the past and present. She is the proud possessor of the shoes of Marie Antoinette, of Mary Stuart, the Empress Josephine, Queen Anne, and the Empress Catherine of Russia. The latter were the present of her son, the Prince of Naples, who brought them last year from St. Petersburg.

Tues day, 14th October.

WHAT appears to us a very curious extension of the law of libel has been made by a court at Peshawar, says the Lahore paper. "A person of one religious sect appears to have published some remarks derogatory to the reputation of the deceased founder of another sect, and a member of the latter has been allowed to proceed with an action for libel on the ground that although no relative, he is a *sincere follower* of the deceased religious leader. This seems to allow any Christian, Mahommedan, Hindu, &c., to bring a libel action against any person publishing anything injurious to the reputation of those of whom the complainant calls himself a "sincere follower." Of course it would be an ideal state of life in which no one should be allowed by law to do or say anything to hurt the feelings of anybody else; but our law courts will be busy indeed before that state is reached."

EFFORTS are it is said being made to introduce to India wines and other beverages manufactured by a chemical process which professes to "advantageously utilise the vegetable produces of countries situated in the tropical and temperate zones." The manufacturers claim that by the use of their chemical compounds they are able to produce "perfect imitations of the wines, spirits, liquors, &c., imported from Europe." Any one purchasing these extracts is able by a process as simple as mixing a dose of Eno's Fruit Salt, to produce bogus liquors, spirits, wines, beer, vinegar, &c., and, glancing at the prospectus before us, we see the idea is extended even to cheese, soup perfume, bread, and pastry.

WRITING on the income-tax administration in the Southern Presidency, the *Madras Times* says:—"There is little doubt but that the lower subordinates, who are employed for the collection of income-tax, commit a good deal of mischief, and that many of them make use of their power to enrich themselves at the expense of the tax-payers. The Board of Revenue is aware of the practice which exists in some districts for assessors under the income-tax to be called on for their returns by or through the lower subordinates. The Board considers the practice open to objection for various reasons, and that the proper course is for the officer empowered to dispose of the return to call for it himself direct, *e.g.*, in the case of incomes of Rs. 10,000 and upwards, the Collector should call for the returns, the divisional officer should call for returns in the case of incomes between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 10,000 and Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars should deal with cases below Rs. 2,000. Information as to the various classes is usually available from the previous year's return.

THE *Globe* thus ridicules the alarming *canards* that are circulated and accepted by the press in a hurry:—

THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

(As telegraphed to every Bourse in the world.)

"Great Britain has declared war against France, Russia, Turkey, Greece, and Hawali."

"British gunboats have landed parties of men at New York, Kiel, Cronstadt, and Constantinople, and have carried those places by a *coup de main*."

"Rome, Paris, and Berlin have been blown into the air by means, of torpedoes, planted by British mid-shipmen on the Tiber, Seine, and Spree."

STILL LATER.

"All the above intelligence declared to be without the smallest foundation, except the story about a mid-shipman having been seen on the spree, which has been fully authenticated."

Wednesday, 15th October.

IN her address, "What the Mahatmas have done for Mankind," Mrs. Besant thus graphically described how all the great men of Europe acknowldged that they were indebted to the East for their knowledge:—Let them notice in past history—first how great outbursts of scientific truth had been initiated by men who stated that they had obtained their knowledge from the East. Take Roger Bacon, who founded the great portion of modern chemistry. Take Parecelsus, who, it was said, discovered hydrogen and animal magnetism, and who gave to medicine a new impulse. Where did they get their knowledge? In the East, and coming down the centuries to men like Mesmer it was found that they were the pupils of men in the East—always the knowledge coming from the same quarter. Take philosophy—where did Schopenhauer get his philosophy from? The East, and the great German school of philosophy derived their knowledge from the same quarter. The Theosophists believed—with all this historical proof—that these Mahatmas had a vast body of knowledge in trust—that they gave it to certain of their pupils, century after century, to start it again in the so-called civilised world, and so all our boasted scientific advance was due to their impulse. The Masters had tried experiments in things outside—as a kind of object lesson to mankind. They had it last century in the French Revolution, and history showed us strange figures moving in that crisis.'

AN American, who went to Varzin lately to interview Prince Bismarck, reports the following conversation between the Prince and himself:—Quoth the ex-Chancellor—"Are you the American who has come post haste from London to see whether I am still alive?" "Yes, your serene Highness." "Well what do they say of me in London?" "They profess to know that you have utterly broken down under the burden of years, and that this complaint of old age has set in in your case suddenly, and with unexpected severity. A denial came, but direct from Varzin, and was therefore not believed." Here the Prince smiled, and, after some further conversation, he said, "I am really not able to give you any other guarantees of the baselessness of those London rumours than what you see in my appearance."

THE conversation then touched on the literary world of London. On being told that the first volume of Moltke's Memoirs had appeared in English, the Prince remarked,—"It is very interesting to me to hear that, and I am glad that the English take so keen an interest in our war literature." In answer to the question whether there was any prospect of his own Memoirs appearing soon, be replied, "Oh! I have nothing ready yet at all." The interviewer professes to have heard from an initiated person that at dinner and billiards the Prince relates to Dr. Chrysander chronologically the facts and events which he intends to give to posterity. Herr Chrysander afterwards writes them down, and transmits them to the Prince's former Secretary, Herr Lother Bucher, who prepares them for the Press. Herr Bucher has not been at Varzin this year, which the American regards as a sure sign that the question of the Memoirs is completely settled, and that the work is being steadily carried on.

Thursday, 16th October.

THE railway returns for the period from April 1st to September 26th this year show an increase in receipts over the figures for the corresponding months of 1890 of Rs. 1,80,39,462. The principal improvement is exhibited by the G. I. P. Railway, which shows an increase of Rs. 42,54,181, the East Indian Rs. 39,24,181, the North Western Rs. 29,51,153, the Rajputana Malwa Rs. 23,75,835, the Bengal-Nagpur Rs. 12,92,756. The latter railway has some 250 miles longer line open for traffic than last year; the total increase of lines open for traffic in all India, is 500 miles. Only one amongst the Guaranteed and State lines shows a falling off in its receipts this year. The Madras Railway has earned close upon 1½ lakhs less than what had been credited to it up to the close of September in 1890.

THE *Lancet* publishes a remarkable story from Saint Crepin, near Rodez. At the funeral of a man of seventy, the four men who carried the coffin became conscious of what they believed to be movements inside. Nothing was said at the time; but when the ceremony in church was over they compared notes, and each was astonished to learn that his companions felt similar sensations. They communicated their fears to the clergyman, who immediately had the coffin broken open. They were greatly taken aback when they saw the hands of the supposed corpse, which had been crossed on the chest, raised towards the eves. The body was then taken back to the house, and it is said that the measures adopted to restore life were successful, for the next day the man spoke and drank fluid nourishment and is now said, although extremely feeble, to be slowly recovering.

M. GREHANT has devised a myograph dynamometer or machine for measuring the power of any particular muscle or group of muscles. The apparatus is likely to be very useful in physiological science. Experiments made with it at the Museum of Natural History in Paris have shown that the muscular power of the biceps and of the anterior brachial muscles in man varies as much as from 15 to 45 kilogrammes.

Friday, 17th October.

A NUMBER of gentlemen whose business calls them frequently to England, have formed themselves into what may be termed a travellers' co-operative association with the object of lessening the expense of their voyages to and from England. The London correspondent of the *Manchester Courier* says that the subscription to this ocean club is to be 350 rupees, payable in monthly instalments of 10 rupees there being no annual payment, and members will have the privilege of a free return passage once in three years, paying simply for the bare cost of their food on board. Should a member not be able to take his turn when it comes round, he can sell his passage ticket for anything he can get exceeding the total cost of membership. A steamer, replete with all the latest improvements, is to be built specially for the association, and it is proposed that the first journey to this country shall be made in January 1893. The vessel is to accommodate 1,000 saloon passengers.

MR. GLADSTONE has written the following reply to a letter received from a correspondent on the subject of Theosophy:—"Hawarden, September 15, 1891. Sir,—In my answer to your interesting letter I must be very succinct. I think I am also impartial as I do not adopt the language of determined disbelief in all manifestations, real or supposed, from the

other world, which is the habit of many. They give me little satisfaction, but that does not warrant meeting them with a blank negative. I cannot conceive how either Spiritism (better so called than Spiritualism) or Theosophy can, with consistency, be discussed in societies of working men or in any other societies which include all subjects calculated to lead to religious discussion. Spiritism and Theosophy, as I understand the matter, deal with the facts and phenomena of the other world as much as the Christian creeds. Every Christian, in their clubs, were Theosophy discussed, would properly claim to apply to it, so far as requisite, the laws of Christian belief. Its introduction must I think, be the precursor both of strife and of conflict."

THE following horrible case of Russian prison barbarity is, says a St. Petersburg correspondent, reported by a journal called the *Week*, in giving an account of the trial to which the matter gave rise. The trial took place recently in Keff, and the cause of it was the death of a prisoner named Drijankoff, last January, in the gaol of a town called Orsha. On a *post-mortem* examination it was found that the man's body had 12 ribs broken in 14 places and was covered with frightful bruises. The prison warders confessed that, by order of the Inspector Morozoff, they had beaten the prisoner Drejankoff with sticks and with stones wrapped up in rags. They also declared that this kind of castigation was quite common and usual for the purpose of maintaining prison discipline. The Judges sentenced six warders to hard labour, and the Inspector Morozoff to the loss of all civil rights and deportation to the province of Tobolsk. The Inspector, however made good his escape before the authorities could arrest him. This prison inspector held a certificate, given him by the local authorities to the effect that he was a model inspector of prisons!

Saturday, 17th October.

Capital writes:—When Mr. Reynolds in January 1885 introduced the Port Improvement Act Amendment Bill into the Bengal Council he stated that it would involve no "increase of taxation and enable the Port Commissioners to lighten the burthens upon trade." That was the distinct promise; what is the performance? At the moment the question of the dock dues is being considered, and we understand that it is proposed to enhance the landing charges on piece-goods by *two* annas per bale. A more flagrant breach of faith it is difficult to imagine, and we are within a measurable distance of the time when it will be utterly impossible to attach any credence to any utterance, however solemn, of the Government.

A BOMBAY paper mentions that a proposal is being mooted for an alteration of the period alloted to the vacations in the Bombay High Court. "The suggestion is to abolish the October vacation, and to extend that which begins in May to the end of June. The first effect of this change would be to put an end to all legal business for more than eight weeks at a time, while prolonging the sittings of the courts through the heat and steam of October. The long holiday would have its attraction no doubt for some of the Judges who would be able to pay hurried visits to Europe, and snatch the brief joy of three weeks' participation in the excitement of the London season. Some of the senior members of the bar would also no doubt avail themselves of the opportunity to run home, which they could well afford to do. But inasmuch as all law business would come to a dead stop for nearly three months, the junior bar and the solicitors would find the innovation a great hardship. The establishments of the firms of solicitors would be absolutely idle, while no work could be undertaken or concluded. What is of more importance from this point of view to the public is that great loss would accrue to plaintiffs and defendants, whose affairs would suffer from the delay, to say nothing of the needless anxiety and suspense. We understand that the solicitors and the bar are considering what steps shall be taken to prevent an ill-considered change being hastily effected." They should be very firm indeed.

THE facts of the Job-Martin case must be fresh in the memory of many. He was tried on a charge of kicking a maid servant in his employ resulting in her death. He was convicted and fined Rs. 50. The extraordinary leniency of the punishment inflicted, considering the gravity of his offence, attracted the attention of the Madras High Court which has called upon Jo -Martin to appear before it and to show cause why the sentence passed by the lower Court, should not be enhanced.

THE American millionaire, Mr. W. Mackay, proposes laying a telephone wire between New York and London.

THE appeal for interference of Government to relieve the landholding and cultivating class from the tyrannical grip of the professional money-lender, which has come from the Punjab and other parts of the country, is now echoed from Sind, where the Mahomedan zemindars of the Hyderabad District have approached the Commissioner-in-Sind, Mr. H. E. M. James, on the subject. Their grounds of complaint are so strong that Mr. James warmly recommends their prayer for remedial measures to the early attention of the Bombay Government. Mr. James thinks it desirable that the two principal sections of the Deccan Agriculturalists Relief Act should be made of general application. The question of curbing the exactions of money-lenders, refusing legal assistance to the enforcement of extortionate demands, and so protecting the people against the ruin resulting from reckless borrowing is understood to be under consideration of the Government of India and a Commission will shortly be appointed to enquire into the working of the Act.

Monday, 19th October.

LORD Wenlock is again busy inspecting relief works and inquiring into the needs of the distressed districts. A Madras telegram dated the 15th instant states:—The Governor of Madras yesterday and to-day inspected the relief works at Trichingode *taluq*. This portion only of the Salem district is now giving cause for anxiety, the rains having held off, though falling around on all sides. Probably no portion of the Presidency has suffered more, but with the labour provided on the roads the people are doing well. In other parts of the Salem district test relief works were opened, but the pepople all left on the exaction of a small daily task. The condition of the neighbouring district of Coimbatore is good. Agricultural operations there are progressing.

THE London correspondent of the *Indian Daily News* says:—"The abandonment of the idea of holding the Indian National Congress next year in this "little village" has, I hear, been received with much satisfaction by the Gladstonian wire-pullers. The prospect of this country being "stumped" by a number of "youthful" Congresswallahs, did not in any way commend itself to the judgment of Mr. Schnadhorst, who has no desire, with the Irish question still to the fore, to have another "oppressed nationality" upon his hands. Lord Salisbury's famous black man, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, is not, I hear, very likely to secure a seat in the House of Commons at the next general election. Indeed, since Mr. Bradlaugh's death, there is no one who speaks on Indian affairs in this country who has, even in the least degree, the ear of the British public."

SANCTION has been accorded to the issue of 40 rounds of Snider blank ammunition per man to those men of the Imperial service troops of Native States who may be selected to attend the special musketry classes.

THE *Pioneer* says:—"When Sir Charles Elliott was on tour in the Lower Provinces some time ago, some residents of Furreedpore submitted a petiton asking for sufficient light in the bazzar to escape fear of robbers, and to avoid mistakes committed by constables taking customers for thieves in the dark. The request was quaintly worded, but it drew attention to a duty which Municiplities in India too often neglect. A good street lamp is one of the most potent enemies of crime. In India there is yet plenty room for improvement in this regard. Sir Charles Elliott found not a single street in Motihari, Maldah, English bazzar and Chyebassa towns lighted at night, and doubtless there are many other towns of large population both in the Lower Provinces and elsewhere where the arrangements are equally backward. To improve street lighting is scarcely less important than to improve the police."

Tuesday, 20th October.

AT a recent meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation a communication was submitted from the Governor of Bombay stating that His Excellency "is pleased to approve of Worli being retained as the outfall for the drainage of Bombay," which, being interpreted means, that the Government consider the cost of placing the outfall at Colaba Point and making a great main drain from the north of the City to that distant spot, as recommended by Mr. Baldwin Latham, is prohibitive.

JUSTICE HANDLEY has given judgment in the case in which a Brahmin sued the Secretary of State for Rs. 65,000, the value of diamonds alleged to have been abstracted from an insured Post Office parcel. The Judge came to the conclusion that the case was not a true one.

IN a resolution on the Board of Revenue's administration Report for the past year Sir Charles Elliott complains of the manner in which petty settlement work is performed throughout the province. In very few cases, he says, is any check kept on the proceedings of the officers charged with petty settlement operations, and so far as he could discover by enquiries on tour, Collectors, as a rule, neglect to keep themselves informed of the manner in which the work is progressing. In some districts where alluvial lands, churs, and dearas have to be settled the officers delay in taking the field when the waters have dried up—"but there is no delay on their part in leaving the work on the pretext that the waters are rising again, or for any excuse, such as the heat of the weather, or the compilation of the annual reports at head-quarters."

ACCORDING to the Lahore paper, "the Ali Khels on the Kohat frontier are said to be meditating mischief, and holding tribal councils for the purpose, because their protest against the construction of fortified posts on the Samana Range has been unheeded. From other parts of the N. W. Frontier also come rumours of an uneasy feeling among the tribes."

THE Maharani of Patiala gave birth to a son and heir-apparent to the Patiala *gadi*, at Simla on the 12th instant.

Wednesday, 21st October.

AN American scientific journal draws attention to the gymnastic exercise which can be derived from the proper use of a stick 5ft. long and 2in. in diameter preferably of bamboo. Hold it by the hands in front of the body, then lift it over the head to the middle of the back, inflate the lungs, and hold the breath during the exercise, so as to develop the chest. In this last position of the stick, rotate the body holding the knees firm, and the toes turned out, so as to exercise the loins. Hold the stick vertically down the back, and sway the body sideways. Another evolution recommended is to hold the stick across the middle of the back, bring it over the head to the front, step over it, first one leg then the other, and a y other movement which suggests itself, always returning to the first position. For young persons of both sexes who have no dumb-bells or other gymnastic appliances the stick exercise is declared to be decidedly wholesome. It has nothing violent about it and is quite under the control of the subjects. This is not altogether new in Indian where the *lathi* has played an important part.

THE Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* states that the Roumanian Government alarmed by the massing of Russian troops to the estimated number of 100,000 men in Bessarabia, and by the continuous arrival of Cossacks of the Don who are being quartered close to the Pruth between Russia and Roumania has, as a precautionary measure, ordered a large number of Roumanian cavalry to upper Moldavia. They will also call out more reserves for the Roumanian manœuvres in October than was originally intended. The Russians across the Pruth are said to be practising forced night marches and night manœuvres by the help of the electric light. These things, the Roumanians contend, might have been done further inland and not just near the banks of the frontier-river. The conclusion drawn is that the manœuvring was not the sole object, hence the apprehensions and counter-measures of Roumania.

THE same correspondent says that many conjectures are current regarding the attempted assassination of the Austrian Emperor Some think that it may have been one of those fanatical demonstrators, who within a short time past have twice attempted to blow up public edifices in and round Reichenberg.

THE murderer of Mr. Melville, late Superintendent of Telegraphs, Assam, was hanged at Manipur on Tuesday morning. He was escorted to the gallows by a guard of the 44th Goorkhas under a British officer. Only a small crowd of Manipuris assembled to witness the execution.

THERE was a severe storm over the Kashmir Valley on Saturday last, and boat traffic on the Lakes was partly suspended. Rain also fell heavily which did much damage to the Baramulla road, repaired recently at an enormous cost.

THE *World* says that theQueen just now is in excellent health, her Majesty having derived very great benefit from the bracing air of Deeside. Osborne does not really suit theQueen at any period of the year, and the air of the Solent is far too relaxing in the middle of the summer to please her Majesty, who always gets somewhat out of health by the time she has been in the Isle of Wight for a month; but the invigorating Highland air acts like a powerful tonic and invariably

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sets her up again. It is settled that the Queen will not leave Balmoral for Windsor until the 19th of November. Her Majesty will, as usual, pass the Christmas holidays at Osborne, and if the Queen goes to Germany next year her visit will take place during April. It is tolerable certain that her Majesty will go only to Coblenz, Cronberg, and Darmstadt.

Thursday, 22nd October.

THE resolution on the Provincial Jail Reports for the year 1890 says that the views of the Local Government on the suggestion in the report of the Committee which has recently inquired into the working of the Jails have been under the consideration and orders of the Government of India and will shortly issue. The number of convicts in jails at the beginning of 1890 was 81,626 against 75,765 in 1889, and 1,231 males and 48 females were sent in 1890 to Port Blair against 2,090 and 50 in 1890. Of the convicts admitted to jail during the year, 13,248 had been previousty once convicted, 4,055 twice, and 3,255 more than twice The total number of offences has risen from 82 thousand to over 95 thousand, the increase occurring chiefly in the Punjab and Burma. The gross expenditure has been Rs. 5,28,288, and the gross average cost of keeping each prisoner has been 60 rupees and 4 annas, or a rupee less than the former year. The cost has been lowest in the North-West Provinces, viz., Rs. 43, and highest in Assam, viz. Rs. 79. The total cash earnings of the prisoners have been Rs. 10,09,038 showing a decrease of nearly Rs, 45,000. The health statistics are not so satisfactory as in 1889. The death-rate has however considerably declined, being 30·68 per mille of the average strength as against 35·63 in the previous year.

THE Resolution of the Bengal Government on the administration report of the Chota Nagpore Division for last year says:—"The Bengal-Nagpore Railway, which was formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy in person on the 3rd March last, but had been in working through the Chota Nagpore Division partially since December, 1889, as well as the extraordinary development of mining speculation, appears already to have effected an appreciable rise in the wages of unskilled labour throughout the division, and a marked diminution in the number of emigrants, which fell off from 24,730 in 1889-90 to 10,066 during the year under report. There has been engendered among a portion of the Kol population a strong desire, leading in the preceding year to a certain amount of violent agitation, for emancipation from the peculiar system of predial services which obtains over a great portion of Chota Nagpore. Recommendations for the commutation of these services into a money rent, as also for the extension of the Bengal Tenancy Act to Chota Nagpore in place of the existing law, Act I (B.C.) of 1879, have been laid before the Government of India, whose orders on the subject have recently been received."

THE Resolution further states:—"No reliable evidence of the existence of lead, silver, or gold in paying quantities has yet been found, though a few companies and individuals appear still to be prospecting with perseverance. The extraordinary excitement which prevailed at one time, and formed a marked feature in the prospects of the division, seems to have generally subsided."

Friday, 23rd October.

THE mortality caused by wild animals in 1890 was considerably less than in the previous year, being a total of 2,460 against 2,724. The number of deaths in Bengal was 1,321, in the Central Provinces 368, in the North West Provinces 228, in Assam 201, Madras 196 and the Punjab only 31. Tigers and leopards accounted for the loss of 798 lives and wolves 87. Returns, more or less doubtful, state that 64,500 cattle were destroyed by wild animals. A marked decrease has taken place in the number of wild animals destroyed, as the total for the year was only 14,604 against 17,638 in 1889. The amount paid as rewards in Madras fell off from Rs. 44,731 to Rs. 25,834. The total number of licenses held for this purpose was now 59,440. The total number of persons killed by snakes was 21,412 as compared with 22,480 in 1889, Bengal and the North-West Provinces accounting respectively for 10,534 and 5,798 of these deaths. The number of snakes destroyed is returned as 5,10,659, of which four-fifths are said to have been killed in the Bombay Presidency.

THE presentation of the farewell testimonials to Lady Lyall took place at Simla on the 6th instant, at Barnes Court, amongst the subscribers present being the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. The testimonial took the shape of a handsome set of Cashmere silver work of lotus pattern, which was presented by Sir Frederick Roberts on behalf of the Committee. Sir James Lyall, on behalf of Lady Lyall gracefully acknowledged the honour done her, and returned thanks, making allusion at the same time to the sincerity of the gay society of Simla.

THE *Pioneer* states that when Captain Younghusband, on arrival at Bozai Gumbaz, found Russian detachments on the Little Pamir and heard of more to the north, he sent off Lieutenant Davison to the Alichur Pamir to discover what was the strength of the main body. This was before receiving the notice to quit which he eventually had to obey, owing to his having no escort with him to enforce his right to remain on neutral ground. Lieutenant Davison journeyed past Wood's Lake (Sarikol) and then turned to the north-west to another lake, the Yashil Kul, into which the Alichur River empties itself. He reached the village of Somartash on the western extremity to this second lake, having crossed the high range in which the principal passes are, the Bash Gumbaz and Khargosh. He was then on the borders of the Afghan Province of Shighnan, which marches with Chinese territory, and he no doubt thought that he could not possibly be interfered with by the Russians. The latter, however, had practically taken possession of the Allchur Pamir and the valley through which the river of that name runs, and they promptly ordered him to leave. He was not allowed to rejoin Captain Younghusband, and so took the northern route to Yarkand. There has seldom, we should think, been a case in which two British officers were treated with such scant courtesy, on the pretext so utterly unjustifiable.

Saturday, 24th October.

THE *Adaocate of India* (Bombay) says:—As the Congress is approaching, it is important to consider who should be selected to serve as President, and what subjects the Congress should take up for consideration. These questions were discussed at a meeting of the local Congress Committee last Wednesday. The Committee has made certain recommendations on both the points. The choice of a President lies, we believe, between the Hon'ble Subramanya Iyer of Madras and Pundit Ajodhya Nath of Allahabad. The general feeling in the Bombay Committee is that as Madras has not yet had the honour of giving a President to the Congress, the choice should be offered to that Presidency to nominate its representative, and it is only if Madras did not agree to nominate, that Allahabad should be appealed to. Pundit Ajodhya Nath is a perfectly eligible candidate both by his work and earnestnes for the Congress cause. But he is Joint-Secretary, and it is somewhat incongruous that the Joint-Secretary should be the President. As to subjects, in addition to the subjects already considered at previous Congresses, the recent Press regulations in Cantonments and the constitution of the Congress are urged for special notice."

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* writes:—Our Kabul news has occasionally been described as "bazar rumours," and especially was our Kabul correspondent's assertion of the lasting irritaton of the Amir descredited. It was stated in contradiction that the Ameer had never been more friendly than now to the Government of India. Since then our correspondent at Cabool has sent a great deal of information of an important kind which is now being gradually confirmed. Some weeks ago, for instance, he wrote that the Ameer had declared his intention of a visit England and was taking measures to secure the loyalty of the people in his absence, and a few days ago the same facts were authoritatively published. We now learn also that, as matters stand, the Ameer is anxious for a mission to be sent to Kabul, but the Government of India are, as we hoped, opposed to the idea, and have invited the Ameer to meet the Viceroy in India. To this invitation the Ameer exhibits a reluctance to send a reply, but has issued the proclamation referred to above, saying that he intends going to England. The Foreign Office at Simla, however, has received no intimation from him to this effect. The position, indeed, appears to be exactly as our Cabool correspondent stated some time ago. The Ameer, irritated by the attempt which was made to curb the cruelty of his punishment of political offenders, will not attend upon the Viceroy: but after getting from his people, by compulsion, a certificate that his rule is mild and beneficent, he hopes to visit England and there pose as a maligned and long-suffering monarch, who in spite of provocation is still loyal to his "alliance" with Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

A MOSQUITO destroyer has just been invented by Professor Neugebouers. It consists of a sheet of card board about six inches long and three broad, and two-thirds of its surface is covered with a white substance having a very pungent odour, as if the chief ingredient were carbolic acid. Besides destroying insect pests and vermin, it acts as a perfect deodoriser, and being composed of the best disinfecting ingredients known, it is a safeguard against all infectious diseases. The card is hung near the ceiling, and the preparation in it will last for at least six months.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1891.

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL.

THE Board's Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for 1890-91, has been reviewed by the Lieutenant-Governor in a characteristic Resolution. It appears that the Government of India commented unfavourably on the large arrears of land revenue which accrued in Bengal in 1889-90; and this brought the whole subject of the collections of land revenue under the consideration of the Local Government during the year under report. We are told that for sometime past District Officers had been expected to attain a standard of collections of 95 per cent. on the total demand from permanently-settled estates and 90 per cent. from all other classes of estates. This standard has now been revised, and District Officers have been informed that they are expected to realise 99 per cent. on the current demands of permanently-settled estates, 95 per cent. for temporarily-settled estates, held by the proprietors for definite periods, 93 per cent. for ryotwari tracts, and 90 per cent. for temporarily-settled estates managed direct or farmed and Government estates. As regards the balances due from the previous year, it has been laid down that such arrears must be collected wholly or nearly so within the next year. Sir Charles Elliott himself admits that the attainment of these ratios will not always be possible; but His Honor gives the District Officers distinctly to understand that failure to comply with this standard will necessitate a special explanation from them. The carrying out of these orders in the case of the permanently-settled estates will make the application of the Sunset Law even more rigorous than before; while in the case of all other classes of estates the officers responsible for the collection of the land revenue demand, must have recourse to those oppressive methods, which so widely prevail in the temporarily-settled tracts of Northern India and which are so well known to Sir Charles Elliott. The fact that oppressive methods are resorted to in the collection of land revenue in the North Western Provinces has been admitted by the Allahabad Board of Revenue in their Revenue Administration Report for 1889-90. Sir Charles Elliott cannot certainly desire that a similar system should be introduced into Bengal. His Honor moreover forgets that in these Provinces we have no officers like the Tehsildars of Northern India to work any such system as might be introduced under pressure. If illegal and oppressive modes of collecting the revenue demand are to be adopted in Bengal, we must have an unscrupulous class of officials like the Tehsildars of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab, of whom the average District Officer in those parts is so fond. We are aware that Sir George Campbell wanted to introduce such a class in the Lower Provinces when he created the post of Sub-Deputy Collectors; but he soon discovered that there was no room for officers of the Tehsildar type in the revenue system of Bengal.

It may be remembered that when Sir George Campbell was ruler of Bengal, he directed that revenue-yielding estates in these Provinces should be divided into four classes. Sir Charles Elliott has slightly modified Sir George's classification, and decided that the present class IV of ryotwari tracts should be abolished. In future the classification of revenue-paying estates is to be as follows:—(I) Permanently-settled estates: (II) Temporarily-settled estates, *viz.*, (*a*) those settled for periods with the proprietors; (*b*) private estates, leased to farmers for periods; (*c*) Government estates leased to farmers for periods: and (III) estates held direct by Government, being—(*a*) those managed for proprietors; (*b*) those owned by Government as proprietor. This classification is no doubt more scientific than that of Sir George Camp-

bell, but at the same time it is more complicated. The Board have been instructed to introduce the changes now ordered in their report for the current years.

The current revenue demand in Bengal, for obvious reasons, varies little from year to year. Sir Charles Elliott seems to regret that the land revenue is stationary; but this was to be expected as the result of Lord Cornwallis's Permanent Settlement. The current demand for the year under report was, in round numbers, 381¾ lakhs, showing an increase of nearly three-quarters of a lakh over 1889-90, and the current collections were 96·2 per cent. as compared with 95·02 per cent. in the previous year. The total balance due at the end of the year was nearly 18 lakhs, which shows a reduction of nearly 5 lakhs upon the figures of the previous year. Indeed, the true balance at the close of the past year was only 15¼ lakhs, or 3·8 of the total demand. But the Government is not satisfied with this result. The Resolution states:—"Having regard to the higher standards attained in other provinces of India which are not permanently settled, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot be satisfied with these figures, especially as regards the arrear collections, but he trusts that with the standards now prescribed, and the greater attention that should be paid to these matters, better results will be attained in future." The balances in temporarily-setttled estates have been reduced from 5½ lakhs to 4½ lakhs; but even this is considered by Sir Charles Elliott too high a proportion on the total demand of 31 lakhs. The Board having drawn attention to the trouble given by the farmers in Eastern Bengal His Honor points out that this remark, though true of Dacca, does not apply to Chittagong; and that almost everywhere else the farmers have paid up their dues better, and in most cases remarkably better, than the estates managed direct. The Lieutenant-Governor rightly holds that direct management should be discouraged as far as possible, and he is of opinion that more care ought to be taken in requiring adequate security from farmers for punctual payments. It is worthy of note that in Government estates the collections were only 83·91 per cent. out of the annual total demand of 29½ lakhs, the current collections amounting to only 82·2 per cent. of the current demand. It was only in 11 districts that the current collections exceeded 90 per cent. of the current demand. "These figures," the Lieutenant-Governor remarks, "speak for themselves of the laxity of administration, and in particular instances the results were very bad, even after all allowances being made." The collections of the year from the ryotwari tracts amounted to 90·78 per cent. of the total demand, and were less than the current demand. Sir Charles Elliott also comments unfavourably on the collection of water-rates, which he considers insufficient. His Honor points out that the ratio of collections to demand in the districts irrigated by the Sone Canals is low especially in the Patna district, where it has fallen from 38·7 to 34·5. On the Orissa Canals the collections were 46·1 per cent. of the demand, against 48·7 in the preceding year, and they fell much below the current demand.

Sir Charles Elliott seems to regret that only 762 entire estates and 309 shares of estates or interests—total 1,071—were sold during the year under report out of 14,483 which became liable to sale for non-payment of the dues of Government. His Honor adduces the figures of the last seven years to show the tendency of defaults to increase and of actual sales to diminish and observes:—"The Lieutenant-Governor is inclined to think that the policy of leniency to the zemindars in exempting their estates from sales for default has been carried too far, and has already expressed his willingness to support the Board and Revenue Officers in insisting upon a punctual payment of the dues of Government. His Honor lately pointed out to the Board the great delay there is at present in preparing the list of defaulting estates and their arrears and in acting under it, and has suggested the adoption of a Register to show each stage in the procedure subsequent to the last day of payment; he hopes also to be able to reduce the number of instalments in the majority of instances from four to two." In India subordinate officers take their cue from the head of the Government; so it requires no prophet to tell us that the observation we have just noted will make District Officers work the Sun-set Law with great rigour.

We are glad to find that there was a considerable reduction in the number of certificates filed during the past year. Sir Charles Elliott strongly condemns the dilatoriness with which certificate cases are allowed to proceed, and regrets the enormous increase of cases in the Orissa Division for the collection of water-rates. His Honor says:—"The certificate procedure is, however, more largely used in the collection of the road and dak cesses than any other department. It is under consideration whether pressure can be put on the payers of Government revenue (who are in nine cases out ten revenue agents and Mukhtears, employed by the landed proprietors, not the proprietors themselves) to induce them to credit the payments they make first to cesses and afterwards to land revenue." This again means that Sir Charles Elliott intends to introduce into Bengal the practice which prevails in the North-Western Provinces, where Tehsildars, as a rule, without consulting the wishes of the payers credit the payments they make first to cesses and water-rates and afterwards to land revenue. The adoption of this high-handed and illegal practice which is winked at by the superior revenue officers in Northern India, will be productive of great hardship in Bengal, more especially as Sir Charles Elliott wishes the Sunset Law to be applied with vigour. Cesses may be paid at convenience after a certificate has been filed; but the land revenue must be paid before sunset of the last date of payment, or the estate will be brought under the hammer. There is thus a great difference between the two cases, and we must strongly protest against the introduction into permanently-settled Bengal the illegal practice of which mention has been made above. It will be remembered that two years ago the Board were desired to submit a special report on the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act after it had been in force for five years. The Board, we are told, are collecting the materials for this report. They do not, therefore, say much on the subject in their annual report under review, but merely repeat what they stated in their previous reports. We shall await with great interest the Board's special report on the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act, and we earnestly hope that this important document will be published as soon as it is submitted to Government.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL ACT FOR THE PUNJAB.

THE Bill for amending the Punjab Municipal Act, 1884, has been hurried through the Legislative Council and passed into law. The Report of the Select Committee on the Bill was presented to the Council on the 1st instant and published in the *Gazette of India* of the 3rd. At the meeting of the Council held on the 8th, Mr. Rattigan moved that the report be taken into consideration and that Bill was passed at the same sitting of the Council. The public had, therefore, practically much less than a week to make themselves acquainted with the alterations which had been made in the Bill by the Select Committee. Such haste in the enactment of important measures which intimately concern the interests of millions of people, cannot be too strongly deprecated. We admit that both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor were naturally anxious that the Bill should be passed into law before their departure from the summer capital; and that in the case of His Honor the anxiety was the greater inasmuch as this was to be his last Simla season. But if Sir James Lyall wished to have his name associated with the measure, it should have been laid before the Council at an earlier period of the session, so as to afford the public reasonable time in all its stages to discuss the Bill in all its bearings. The Bill might have been introduced in May or June; and if that could not be managed its passing should have been postponed till the next Simla session of the Council. It is deeply to be regretted that such an important measure should have been carried through the Council in hot haste, simply because the retiring Lieutenant-Governor wished to have his name associated with it.

It will be remembered that Sir Philip Hutchins, the Home Minister, acted as sponser for the Bill on the occasion of its first introduction into Council. But when Mr. Rattigan took his seat on the Council he was placed in charge of the measure. The Report of the Select Committee was presented by him and he moved at the last meeting that it be taken into consideration. In doing so Mr. Rattigan explained the character of the alterations which the present Act makes in the old law regulating municipalities in the Punjab. In order to prove the necessity for a general amendment of the municipal law for the Punjab, he contended that the Act of 1884 was not fully adapted to meet all the widely different requirements of municipalities in the province. He urged that these bodies are found to vary largely in type representing communities not larger than good-sized villages and large cities like Delhi, Amritsar and Lahore. There can be no doubt that they differ in their capacity for local Government, in their special resources and in other local conditions. But we have Mr. Rattigan's own admission that the framers of Act XIII of 1884 were not unmindful of these peculiarities of municipal administration in the Punjab. With a view to meet the difficulty mentioned by him, they divided municipalities into classes, and gave the Local Government the power to except any municipality from any of the provisions of the Act if they were deemed unsuitable thereto. "But even with these devices the current of municipal administration," Mr. Rattigan urged, "has not been found to run smoothly, while there are a number of small towns in which it is desirable to introduce some regulations for sanitary and other purposes, affecting the comfort, health and safety of the inhabitants, but in respect to which it is quite impossible to apply the somewhat cumbrous provisions of an Act like XIII of 1884. That Act was admittedly a compromise between divided opinions, and the then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab did not hesitate to say in Council that the form in which the Act was passed was not in all respects what he desired. But the hope was nevertheless entertained—a hope common to legislative efforts at all times—from Theodosius to Napolean—but a hope in each instance doomed to early disappointment—that the Act then passed had solved the difficulty of regulating municipal Government in the Punjab. A comparatively short existence of seven years has dispelled the illusion, and it is now admitted on all hands that the Act of 1884 has been found inadequate. Too intricate for the wants of smaller towns, not wide enough in its scope to meet the growing requirements of large cities and hill municipalities like Simla, and defective in matters relating to control and regulation of manufacture, preparation and sale of food and drink, an amendment of the law was urgently called for."

The simple truth is that the liberal policy of Act XIII of 1884 did not commend itself to the approval of narrow-minded bureaucrats who are so jealous of their rights and privileges that they would not part with a single iota of them. Then, it is notorious that the European high officials who spend the hot weather months at Simla did not look with favour upon the constitution of the local Municipal Committee on an elective basis. As they could not get the elected members to register the edicts of the executive authorities, they set on foot a persistent agitation for procuring the abolition of the Simla Municipality as now constituted; and, as a matter of course, they succeeded. We do not deny that the provisions of Act XIII of 1884 were too intricate for the wants of small places, but this defect might have been easily remedied without a general amendment of the law. It is a matter of fact, that the necessity for providing for the sanitary improvement of the smaller places

has arisen from the circumstance that European officials on their way up to Simla from the plains have to pass through them. If Mr. Rattigan had said that it had been found necessary to undertake a general amendment of the Municipal law for the Punjab for the purpose of promoting the convenience of European residents of hill stations and of increasing the powers of control vested in the executive authorities, he would have spoken nothing but the truth.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who followed Mr. Rattigan, maintained that there was no reason for thinking that the new Act was a retrograde measure. He said: "I have observed that suspicions were at one time expressed in some quarters, that the new measure was to be retrogressive in its character, and that it would put the Committees more into leading strings than before. This idea of the scope and objects of the measure will, I hope, be seen to be quite inapplicable to the Bill both as introduced and as it now stands. The new provisions which we propose to enact do not involve the comprehensive working out of any new principle. They are merely supplementary to the present law. Modest as they are in plan, their general tendency, almost without exception, is not to curtail municipal action but to confer greater power and increased responsibility upon Municipal Committees. In fact, this development of function is so considerable that in some instances, it is only the most advanced which will be able and willing to undertake all the duties which the law permits to be entrusted to them." The new measure has not been condemned as retrogressive in character on the ground that it seeks to confer greater powers and increased responsibility upon Municipal Committees. Objection was taken to the Bill because it proposed to increase the powers of control vested in the executive authorities. Section 7 of the new Act makes special provision with respect to term of office of appointed and elected members. The section gives power to the Local Government at any time and for any reason to declare by notification that a seat on any Committee filled by election shall henceforth when vacant be filled by appointment and also to direct that the seat of any elected member shall be vacated upon a date fixed in the notification. Now this provision is thoroughly retrogressive in character by which elective principles have been literally done to death. But Sir James Lyall does not naturally think so. His Honor contends that under the old law the Local Government had power to regulate the number of elected and appointed members upon a Committee as public interest required; and that the new Act makes no change in this respect, but merely provides that this power shall not become practically ineffectual through delay. It is true that the Local Government had the power under Act XIII of 1884 to regulate the number of elected and appointed members upon a Committee and to decide whether public interest required a nominated in place of an elected Committee and *vice versa*. But this power could not under the old law be exercised in the summary manner provided in the new Act. If an elected member of a Municipal Committee could, at any time during the period for which he has been chosen, be removed by a mere notification of the Local Government, the elective system would become an utter farce. It is far better that we should have a nominated Committee than an elective Committee under such conditions. We do not deny that the section is, as Sir James Lyall urges, rather a section of procedure than a section of substantive law, but then the power which it confers on the Local Government strikes at the very root of the elective system. No man with a grain of self-respect in him would care to offer himself as a candidate for election if he knew that the Local Government could by a mere notification declare his seat to be vacant upon a date appointed in the notification. We see that Sir Alexander Miller, the new Legal Member, at the request of Mr. Rattigan, moved an amendment for which no notice had been given. He said:—"It had been represented that Committees may be put into some difficulty by reason of persons liable to pay taxes, such as occupiers of houses and the like, in any municipality leaving the municipality without paying such taxes and taking all their property away with them, and that, as the law stands, or as it would stand after this Bill be passed as it is framed by the Select Committee, there cannot be any remedy against such persons except by a civil action in the district in which he may be resident. It has been suggested to us—and the Select Committee are agreed that it would be a desirable amendment, and one which if it had been brought to their notice in time would have been made by them—that the law should be extended so that the same remedy should be given in the place where the defaulter is found as the Committee would have had if he had continued to remain in the Municipality." Sir Alexander Miller, accordingly, proposed the addition of certain words to section 201 of the Bill in order to meet such cases; and the proposal was accepted. The result of this amendment is that if a man should leave a Municipality without paying his taxes, and go elsewhere, he will be made liable to pay them by the Magistrate of the district instead of its being necessary first of all for the Municipality to establish a right to the taxes, and then to bring a civil suit founded on that decision for the recovery. When such a power has been conferred on the Municipal Committees in the Punjab, we do not see any reason why it should be withheld from Municipalities in the other provinces of the empire.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

"OF course, it is quite possible," says Sir D. Mackenzie, Wallace, in his valuable work on Russia, "that, whether we have a contiguous frontier or not, Russia may some day in the event of hostilities, make a diversion in the direction of India, and thereby cause us considerable annoyance." The prophecy of Sir Mackenzie, according to some, is going to be fulfilled. The Russian scare is day by day assuming serious proportions. The recent incident on the Pamirs has but naturally filled the public mind both in England and in India with grave apprehensions; and if all the disquieting rumours that are being daily reported from different quarters be true, the Russian aggression will no longer be a very mean affair. It is true, as Lord Beaconsfield said, there is room enough in Asia for both England and Russia. But when one power is determined to have all the room to itself, where is the possibility of their relation being a peaceful one? Moreover, the idea of possessing India has a seductive charm for Russian politicians. Whatever may be the ultimate result of Russian efforts to invade India, that there is danger from Russia, no one will deny. The vast military resources of Russia, the strong position she is daily occupying in Central Asia, and the terror her name inspires, are factors in estimating this danger which no sound statesman will ever overlook. The situation is no longer to be too lightly thought of, and it certainly behoves Government to be fully, though soberly, prepared for the contingency.

In speaking of the recent events on the Pamir steppes, the *Times* advises the Government to be on the alert and watchful. In this affair the *Times* clearly sees that the approximation of the British and Russian powers in that quarter is likely to soon reach a somewhat critical stage, and writes:—'We presume this step will form the subject of diplomatic representations at St. Petersburg; for though the Alichur Pamir, situated north of Lake Victoria, may be supposed to lie within the sphere of Russian influence as defined in 1872, the Little Pamir is certainly beyond it. The entire region is a bleak and almost unproductive succession of rolling downs between 13,000ft. and 14,000ft. above sea level, but it forms the meeting ground or point of junction of the territories of four Powers—Great Britain, China, Russia and Afghanistan—and this circumstance endows it with a political importance which cannot be overlooked. It may probably be found necessary next year to effect some international survey and more precise demarcation of the Upper Oxus valley, with a view to avoid future misunderstandings.' This is what is felt in England. What the opinion in military circles in India is may be gathered from the following in the *Civil and Military Gazette*:—"Russian filiburstering must be stopped somewhere, for if we allow it to continue, it simply means that Russia is strengthening her position for the final struggle, and it would be better, if come it must, to tackle her at once rather than give her time to complete her arrangements, open up her communications and consolidate her base of operations." The *St. James Gazette*, which has been placed in possession of a letter from Captain Younghusband, in giving further details of the Russian movements in the Central and Afghan frontier, observes:—'Incidents like this point to the great necessity of carefully watching our neighbours. Bozai-Gumbaz lies some 200 miles as the crow flies due north of Abbotabad and only 80 miles as the crow flies from Gilghit, our advanced post on the Kashmir frontier. But for Captain Younghusband's promptitude, this Russian party would probably have pushed right on till stopped by force." Whatever the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* may think, the Indian authorities are fully alive to the necessities of the situation and would prove equal to the occasion should any emergency arise.

To understand the bearings of the Pamir incident upon international politics we must refer to the diplomatic controversy which took place between England and Russia some thirty years ago, and ended with a clear demarkation of the limits of their respective empires in Asia. Both the Indian and Russian Governments published official maps in which these limits were clearly marked. It is needless to say that in either of the two maps the region of the Pamirs was not mentioned as being within the Russian influence. Nor, until the present moment has anything been heard of further Russian aggression beyond the boundaries then laid down. Indeed, Russian explorers have from time to time met English explorers in regions beyond their respective boundaries; but whenever they met, they met as friends and showed hospitality towards each other. Indeed, only the other day, Captain Grambchevtsky met Captain Younghusband in Yarkhand and the two were good enough friends. And now the same Captain Grombchevtsky has expelled the same Captain Younghusband and his companion Lieutenant Davison from the Alichur and Little Pamirs, though there is no evidence yet to show that the Little Pamir has become Russian territory. But there can be little doubt as to the annexation of the Alichur Pamir by the Russian explorer and his Cossack party. Moreover, an undertaking is said to have been extorted from Captain Younghusband that he would not return to the Little Pamirs with a view to crossing the Hindukush by the passes leading into Chitral. The most significaut point in connection with the whole affair is that the Governor General of Russian Turkistan has since proceeded to the supposed Russian frontier on the Alie Range, as if to support the action of the exploring party. He may, of course, have acted on his own initiative but as Tashkend is connected with St. Petersburg by telegraph it is feared, and not without reason, that he was in communication with head quarters. The *Times*, however, ascribes the activity of Russia to ambitious schemes of the Governor of Turkestan, rather than to the Government at St. Petersburg and advises that Russia should be urged to observe the Herirud-Oxus Convention.

Active negotiations, in the meantime, are being carried on in London on the Pamirs question. Sir Robert Morier, British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, is now in London on leave, and is being consulted by the Government. Both England and China will protest against the Russian advance in the Pamirs. A Samarcand paper reports according to usual lights that the population of the Pamirs asked for the Russian advance in their territory. This is a well-known philanthropic move which will be valued at its proper worth. The new Governor of Chinese Turkestan has been ordered to hasten to Kashgar and the

Chinese Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been instructed to ask the Russian Government for an explanation of the presence of their forces in Chinese territory. There is a wholesome anxiety not to irritate China. The St. Petersburg *Grashdanin* strenuously advocates the observance of absolute neutrality by Russia in Chinese matters. The journal is of opinion that in making a common cause with the other European Powers against China Russia would but serve the ends of France and England to the prejudice of her own interests which demand that she should not jeopardise the security of her Asiatic shores, nor contribute to the complete ascendancy of Great Britain in the Pacific by arousing the antagonism of China. The paper concludes,—"By remaining neutral at the present moment Russia would lay the foundation of a future Russo-Chinese alliance which she might use hereafter in case of need as an effective weapon against Great Britain in the far East."

This is not the first time that Russia has given cause for anxiety to Great Britain. Russophobia was on the ascendant during the administration of Lord Auckland as it is now. It brought on the first invasion of Afghanistan and the deplorable Kabul Massacre. The invasion of Persia in 1854 was a sequel to that affair. The Crimean war was most intimately connected with the same cause; and the second invasion of Afghanistan by Lord Lytton was the avowed result of the dread of the Russians taking India. The Russo-Afghan Boundary Commission was likewise an outcome of it, and the dread to-day of the Polar Bear seems to be more intense than it was before. How far north was Russia from Panjdeh fifteen years ago, and how far south of it has she now come! The Pamir incident has created a considerable sensation throughout the political world, and it is not with little apprehension we learn that a number of Afghan traders lately arrived at Nijni Novgorod, with a letter for General Caranoff, the Governor, from the Amir Abdur Rahman, requesting him to inform Russian merchants that he had decided to open Afghanistan to free commercial intercourse with Russia on the consideration of a good quality of Russian products being imported into Afghanistan. The Paris correspondent of the *Times* has also telegraphed the following important statements:—"It is understood that a treaty is now being arranged between Russia and Persia, half political and half economic, containing the following two stipulations; firstly, a commercial union between the two countries which will have the effect of all but absolutely excluding the other Powers from commercial relations; secondly, the relegation of political representation abroad to a single of the two Powers, either Russia or Persia. This probably implies a Russian Protectorate project comprising moreover all the Khanates, Khiva, Bokhara, etc., under the hegemony of Russia." This report has been denied but may not be without a substration of truth, for aught one knows. The situation, we repeat, is one of constant watchfulness.

It is, however, said that the real object of Russian policy is not India but Constantinople. If Russia ever took action against India, the official Russian journal, *Novosti*, remarked, it would be only by way of retaliation for hostility shown by Great Britain to the Czar's Government in Europe. It is true, but for English interference the Sultan of Turkey would ere long have become the slave of Russia. And it is for this that since the treaty of San Stefano, Russia has neglected no opportunity of threatening England in Asia to compel her to give way in Europe. Whatever the real meaning of the situation may be, that the general outlook seems to be all the more gloomy is evident from the following telegram as respects the right of way through the Dardanelles. It is stated that Lord Salisbury, replying to a note from the Porte notifying the British Government that Turkey has entered into an agreement with Russia relative to the passage of the Dardanelles, says that he assumes that any privilege in this direction granted to another Power equally belongs to Great Britain. The tenor of the Note is, we are constrained to admit, somewhat puzzling to understand. But we are not at one with the *Pioneer* when it says:—

It is evident from the tenor of Lord Salisbury's Note to the Porte, that he is not prepared to fight about the Dardanelles. The object of England up to the time of the Treaty of Berlin was to keep Russia out of the Mediterranean, because it was recognised that her presence there would seriously endanger one of our routes to the East. If her warships are allowed through the Dardanelles, it matters very little whether the same privilege is accorded to those of other nations, among them England's or not. In event of a war, no doubt, there might be a scuffle for the possession of the straits, and Russia might be forestalled: but the difference between the old and the new situation is this, that in the former Russian warships could not go through the straits: in the latter they may, and the chances on which the result depends—the intrigues at the Porte for instance—are such as can scarcely be foreseen or with certainty controlled. Mr. Chamberlain in the speech he has just delivered has characterised Mr. Gladstone's advice that we should evacuate Egypt as cowardly, but in fact the ex-Premier is in this matter perfectly consistent, and whatever the epithet to be applied to the policy he advoctes, there is no reason to suppose its motive must necessarily be cowardice. Mr. Gladstone has long been for abandoning the Turk, and letting Russia enter the Mediterranean, his whole policy proceeding on the assumption that the idea of an inveterate hostility between England and Russia is a mistake. But if we admit this, then it is almost impossible to justify our occupation of Egypt on grounds of national expediency. There may be some question whether in any case the Suez-Canal route would be available for the transmission of troops to our Eastern possessions, but with Russia established in the Mediterranean there can scarcely be a doubt that the question would needs be answered in the negative. The only motive or justification with which we ever entered Egypt, or interfered in its affairs since the days of Mehemet Ali, would thus be removed. If any agreement is to be tolerated permitting Russian warships free access to the Levant, then the epithet used by Mr. Chamberlain would be far more fitly applied here: for if Lord Salisbury still adheres to the policy of Lord Beaconsfield it is still difficult to find any reason other than timidity why he should suffer it to be infringed in so important a particular as this question of the Dardanelles.

It certainly does not imply that Lord Salisbury is not under any circumstances whatever prepared to fight for the Dardanelles; but what he simply intends to mean is that at present he sees no very urgent cause to interfere with the action of the Porte if it does it on its own risk.

But let that pass. That the clouds are gathering from every quarter is evident enough. But the army in India is so efficient and so well organised that Russia's sinister designs in this direction have really very little influence upon the policy of England. Notwithstanding the threats in the Russian Press England feels, and will ever feel, herself much more willing to meet Russia in Asia than to abandon her old ally, Turkey in Europe. The army in India is now vastly superior in number, discipline, armament and transport, to the force which Russia would ever be able to bring to the Indian frontier; and knowing full well the unimpeachable loyalty of the Native Princes and people towards the Paramount Power there can be little doubt that England would be able to teach Russia a severe lesson should she ever have the foolhardiness of meeting her in open hostility. All that the English and Indian Governments have now to do is to be vigilant and wakeful. Captain Younghusband is reported to have reached Gilgit safe and he is pushing to Srinagar with all possible speed in order to meet the Viceroy, before His Excellency leaves the place. Lieutenant Davison is also said to be with the Captain though he is supposed to have been compelled to take a different route. The Viceroy will thus have full details of the Pamir incident first hand at the earliest possible opportunity and make such arrangements as the occasion may require.

Latest News and Notes.

WE offer cordial Bijaya greetings to our readers and friends. May the Divine Mother continue to shed her lustre over them and encourage and support us in the discharge of our difficult duties. Journalism in India is at a discount at the present moment and most vigilant and watchful cares are needed for its protection and improvement.

THE Viceregal tour has commenced. Lord and Lady Lansdowne arrived at Srinagar on Friday under the most favourable auspices. The weather was splendid and a State procession of barges and boats was completely successful.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor leaves Darjeeling for Behar to-day and is timed to reach Bankipur to-morrow. Sir John Edgar joins His Honor at Bankipur on the 31st instant. Lady Elliott joins him at Sonepur and will remain with him till the end of the tour.

THE Provincial Conference meets on Thursday next at 12 o'clock noon at the rooms of the British Indian Association. There will be a preliminary meeting of Delegates at the same place on Wednesday, at 2 P. M., to consider the Resolutions and to settle the programme.

PUJA incidents to which it is hardly necessary or kindly to draw more pointed attention, have made the *Mirror* brimful of pity for others, though in pursuance to its peculiar creed it never ceases to preach what it cannot afford to practise. Its string of querries is once more directed towards the internal arrangements of the British Indian Association and the *Hindoo Patriot*, upon which it is naturally as well informed as in other matters. Its curiosity is, however, not destined to be satisfied yet and chewing the cud of bitterness, it is gall and wormwood all over, gracious *Bijaya* influences notwithstanding. Press Association and Cadastral Survey, all weld themselves into a homogeneous whole by magic touch and tend towards the noble object of setting man against man and the ruled against the ruler. What *mahatma* could have inspired the Errant with the idea of the British Indian Association having lost touch with Mafassil Zemindars or Behar Zemindars for the matter of that or of its having played itself into any body's hands or of having set up any idol? Let not the *Mirror*, we warn it again, believe in anything apparent, be it apathy, antipathy or sympathy. The British Indian Association knows its duty well enough and will do it, as it has never failed to do and its imaginary dereliction need madden no crazy reflector. The Association cannot afford to sacrifice its principles and traditions even for the excellent object of pleasing the *Mirror* and will be content to do its duty in its own humble way. The *Mirror's* "hearing" one thing or another does not help any body much and though rumours of kinds are afloat in all directions, there is nothing yet before the public, upon which the proposal for Cadastral Survey can be definitely discussed. Our Behar friends are usefully employing the time in preparation of the ground in case of emergency, while the British Indian Association is diligently employing itself in obtaining all the available information. This ought to satisfy the *Mirror*. But some people rush in, where others fear to tread.

OUR readers will be sincerely sorry to learn that His Highness Maharaja Lachmissur Sing Bahadur, of Durbhanga, is suffering from an acute attack of fever, which has prostrated him. He is, however, being steadily brought round by skilful medical treatment and his early recovery which is earnestly prayed for may be expected.

BENGAL may soon expect scarcity on a large scale, if not downright famine. Serious apprehensions are entertained for the rice crop at various centres of agriculture, and if there be no early fall of rain, more than 13 annas of the crops may not be got in according to official estimates. At places it may not be quite three or four annas. The prospect is gloomy indeed and the scarcity will very likely be wide-spread. Throughout last week it looked as if it would rain. But nothing came of it. The situation is serious because there is or will be scarcity in other

parts of the country. Leaving Madras alone, Burma, Rajputana, the Punjab and the North Western Provinces are suffering more or less and the means for relief will not be as ready as might otherwise be the case.

THE last of the incenerators—that at Gobra—is gone. Messrs. Bird and Co., who were working it, consider the Municipality too exacting and have ceased operations. Why could they not wait for Dr. Simpson's new "ideas?"

THE Amir, it is said, no longer seriously thinks of an European visit. His Highness has not, however, yet said so.

SIR Charles Elliott is not of the mind of those who gratutiously think that natives will not do in the Forest Department. His Honor has accordingly modified departmental rules that will make natives eligible for certain posts. This is an additional concession for which the people of Bengal will be grateful to His Honor.

THERE is a loud complaint yet against the management of the Hindu Hostel, though as we remarked lately, the Committee has radically changed its constitution by some recent resolutions. Suvarnabaniks justly make it a grievance that although a considerable portion of the funds subscribed for the Hostel came from members of their community, their boys are rigidly excluded from sharing the benefits of the institution. This rule must be modified.

THE Editor and printer of the *Indian Mirror* were charged with defamation at Lucknow. The case it seems has now been amicably settled, by the *Mirror* tendering an apology. It says:—

We regret that we allowed two letters from Lucknow, which appeared in the issues of the *Indian Mrror*, dated 5th June and 4th August, 1891, reflecting upon the character of Babu Parbati Churn Bhuttacharji, to appear in our columns, being misled and misinformed by our correspondents. We now apologize to Babu Parbati Churn for having inserted them and withdraw the allegations therein contained, except as regards the fact of the arrest, which resulted in his discharge.

IT is said to be believed in military circles that if the Duke of Connaught does not succeed Sir Frederick Roberts, either General Brackenbury, Sir George White, or Sir George Greave will be appointed. It is supposed to have been effectually settled by Her Majesty long ago, who is said to be anxious that the Prince should fill a yet higher post. In India the Duke's return would always be welcomed with satisfaction.

IT is stated that Mr. C. C. Stevens, Commissioner of Patna, will be appointed to the Board of Revenue on the retirement of Mr. Halliday. Mr. P. Nolan will succeed Mr. Lowis as Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division. Mr. D. R. Lyall, late Commissioner of Chittagong, is expected to go to Patna, while Mr. John Beames will succeed Mr. Smith in the Presidency Division. Mr.Smith, who is now acting for the Hon'ble Mr. Halliday, will be confirmed from the end of October, when Mr. Halliday goes, till the middle of December, when Mr. Smith also retires.

MR. MARSDEN has returned from leave and taken charge of his office from Mr. Handley. During his officiating incumbency of the Chief Magistrateship, Mr. Handley has given entire satisfaction to the profession and the public.

IT is said that the result of the negotiations between the British and Chinese representatives at Darjeeling in connection with the Sikkim-Thibet frontier will not be made known until after the arrival of the Government of India in Calcutta. The Chinese representatives at Darjeeling are said to be awaiting a despatch from Pekin regarding the terms of the final arrangement which has been matured during the last few months.

DR. LETHBRIDGE, Inspector-General of Jails, will probably succeed Colonel Cadell as Chief Commissioner of the Andamans next April.

THE Government of India has ruled that the election of a portion of the Fellows of the Calcutta University, shall in future be made by means of voting papers signed before a magistrate, and not by personal attendance of electors at the Senate House. This will allow mofussil graduates voting at the elections, which will be a further concession that will be warmly appreciated.

A DESPATCH, dealing with the opium question, has just been forwarded to England by the Government of India. It is a sort of reply to the memorial of the Anti-Opium Association to the Secretary of State, submitted to it last year.

THE third batch of Shambazar rioters is being tried by Mr. Rampini, the Sessions Judge of Alipur. An application for postponement of the trial has been refused and one of the prisoners suffering from ill-health has been released. The trial of the fourth batch by Mr. Kelleher will commence to-day.

THE examination of His Highness the Nizam before the Special Commission at Hyderabad terminated on Monday before last, but the Counsel for Mr. Jacob stated that he reserved the right to examine His Highness afresh before the Calcutta High Court, on points on which it was desirable that the evidence should be tendered in presence of the tribunal of judgment. Counsel on both sides having returned to Calcutta the case was again taken up in the Magistrate's Court on Thursday last.

MR. Jacob has been committed to take his trial at the next Sessions which commences on the 30th November. Mr Jacob has filed a written statement and says he never had any intention to defraud the Nizam, and did not believe the Nizam would go back from his bargain. He believed that the Nizam wished to purchase the diamond, but could not do it openly because of the Resident's remonstrance; and he believed Mr. Abid had the Nizam's authority for telling him (as he did) that His Highness would take the diamond for 40 lakhs. He quotes a number of telegrams that passed between himself and Abid and Ram Chunder Rao (who acted for Abid during his absence from Hyderabad) in addition to those put in by the prosecution- Mr. Burder has made over the "stolen property" in his possession under protest.

THE "Imperial" Diamond has already had a romance attached to it and "Mr. Issacs" will have to appear in a new garb in the next edition. Its transit to and from Hydrabad seems to have been of an equally romantic character and all possible steps were taken for turning would-be robbers and marauders off the scent. Some incidents in connection with this are thus described by a contemporary:—"A great deal has been said about the way in which the famous diamond was taken to Hyderabad and back again,—for it is once more safely lodged in the vaults of the Bank of Bengal. To Mr. Ernest Cowie must be given the sole credit. On the journey to Hyderabad he carried the diamond in a belt round his waist and on the return to Calcutta it was brought in an iron chest. Mr. Cowie was accompanied, in the first instance, by Sergeant Eagleton of the Calcutta Police, but on the return journey Mr. Fellowes, Assistant Inspector-General of Police, was added to the party." All this is very good, although it is difficult to see how and why the solicitor for the prosecution could have charge of the subject matter of the case, which had been entrusted with the Bank of Bengal for safe custody.

THERE is a "political" aspect of the great diamond case and the wonder is that the Nizam's Government ever bethought of ordinary tribunals of law, instead of resorting to the Foreign Department. Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick who was examined on Commission on behalf of the defence, refused to answer many important questions on grounds of public policy and has sent in to the Magistrate a lengthy vindication of the line he adopted. This, we are afraid, will not much favour the prosecution. Among other things Sir Dennis says:—

I am clearly of opinion that all confidential communications that pass between me as Resident and his Highness or his Highness's advisers are protected from disclosure by the law, and that to compel their disclosure would be quite as much contrary to public policy as to compel a member of the Supreme Council to disclose what had passed in that Council, or to compel a solicitor to disclose communications passing between him and his client, or to compel a husband to disclose a communication made to him by his wife.....The price put by Mr. Jacob on his diamond is in fact equal to, or more than, the total amount usually provided in the annual budget of the Hyderabad State for payments to his H ghness, and in the event of his Highness contemplaung the purchase of such an article, the provision of funds to meet an extraordinary charge of so large an amount, especially in a season like the present with a serious danger of scarcity impending, would be a most important matter of State which would have to be considered before determining to make the purchase.....Any officer new to Hyderabad coming here as Resident would be surprised at the confidence which almost from the first, and except on rare occasions, is reposed in him; but if he is compellable to disclose in a court of law communications made to him in official confidence, there must be an end of all this—the position of the Resident will be completely changed, and the utility of the office immensely diminished.

That may be so. But as a witness in the case, it is hardly Sir Dennis' place to enter into these explanations, though perhaps as Resident many things might be permissible in him. In the latter capacity he makes the Nizam's manifesto the peg for a politico-legal lecture and in acknowledging receipt of a copy of this valuable document, says:—

I am convinced that this letter will have a most beneficial effect, which will not be confined to the present occasion, or to Hyderabad; for I believe that the example set by the native ruler who stands first in dignity in this country, cannot but have an important influence both upon other Indian Princes, and upon the host of magnates of lesser degree who at present imagine it to be derogatory to them to give their evidence in the manner essential for the furtherance of the ends of justice. I have forwarded a copy of your letter, and its enclosure, to the Government of India.

For the purposes of the prosecution the "Manifesto" and the Resident's "Explanation" had never been penned as well.

THE mercantile community of Calcutta is naturally much exercised over the Kidderpur Dock charges. The matter has been the subject of a long correspondence, publicity to which was given in the first instance, by Mr. Schiller in the shape of a letter to a morning contemporary. The correspondence has since been published and Mr. Apjohn, officiating Vice-Chairman of the Port Commission, has been doing his best to re-assure the mercantile public that there is nothing to be afraid of and that all will be well in the long run. An extra charge of two annas per bale on piece-goods and practical forcing of foreign vessels into docks as they will be allowed no acess to the jetties, are however matters to which the mercantile public cannot easily reconcile itself and there are complaints of breach of faith and so forth. The Port Trust has made further advances by proposing to warehouse piece-goods bales at the Docks on easy terms and to find easy and cheap means of transit to the city godowns or railway stations *via* the Strand and the Chowringee Road. Representatives of Chowringee are already mad at the latter idea and conjures up terrors of cart traffic which will necessitate the project of a second Central Road being taken in hand at once.

GROUND is being prepared for Mrs. Annie Besant against her visit to India next cold

weather by Mr. Bertram Keightly, General Secretary to the Theosophic Society. Mr. Keightly delivered a series of three lectures at the Albert Hall last week on Theosophical subjects. The chair on these occasions were taken by Dr. Salzer. He will now tour in the country on a lecturing mission. Other lecturers on Theosophy and Buddhism are and will be following him and Mrs. Besant will find her work far advanced. It is expected that she will be present at the Nagpur Congress.

WE have received a copy of an excellent little Bengali novelette, called *Lilamayi,* by Babu Jogendranath Chatterjea, who has already made a name in Bengali fiction like his compeer, Babu Haridas Banerjea. The reader is always pleased to read their books. The present work of Babu Jogendranath is quite in keeping with his reputation. The characters have been well depicted and the scenes are touching throughout.

FILLIS' CIRCUS will come again. In the meantime the Company has had a serious accident in the shape of a collision of one of its special trains with a goods train, while proceeding to Mysore. Several men were killed and injured by the accident and this gives a contemporary an opportunity to indulge in a general tirade against "Babu." The "Babu" proper, it may however be remarked, had nothing to do with the accident, for the station staff consisted wholly of men recruited on the principle of excluding the Babu wherever possible. This is the Babu's complaint as well as that of the public, who as a result of this policy are very inefficiently served in all departments.

MR. GEORGE MILN will soon re-open at the Corinthian. He is accompanied by Mr. Allan Hamilton who is in charge of the Company. Miss Louis Jordan does not, however, return owing to ill-health. The advance programme threatens that according to the spirit of the times the season will be a non-Shakesperian one.

THE Salvationists had several big events last week in Calcutta. Fresh accession of "Colonels" and "Captains" led to "battles of songs' and special services at the Dalhousie Institute and the Albert Hall. They will, however, turn last week's doings into the shade this evening, when a marriage will be solemnised at the Methodist Episcopal Church. They are thus not unmindful of domestic bliss if it can be had.

THE proposal for Cadastral Survey is being severely condemned everywhere and public meetings are being held in furtherance of the objection. The Purnea and Gya meetings have been followed by one at Tikari, of the proceedings of which the following is a telegraphic summary :—

Nearly a thousand people were present. The following resolutions were unanimously passed. *First* that the proposed cadastral survey is wholly unnecessary and useless, and is calcuated to create unrest and multiply litigation and unsettle the exsisting relations between the landlords and tenants of Behar. *Secondly*, that the country is wholly unprepared for and unable to bear the burden of the taxation that will be imposed to defray the expenses of the cadastral surveys. *Thirdly*, this meeting fully ratifies and confirms the resolutions passed at a public meeting held at Gya on October 7th, and it is resolved to request the Behar Landnolders' Association at Bankipore to move in the matter. *Fourthly*, that a copy of these proceedings be sent to the Behar Landholders' Association and the papers.

A similar meeting has been held at Koelwar.

PROFESSOR Van Tassel is expected to arrive at Calcutta soon accompanied by Miss Van Tassel, another daring aeronaut and successful parachutist. After the exhibition in Bombay, he will proceed under special agreement to Mysore, where the Maharajah, who has taken up the idea of rain-making operations, wishes to utilise his experience. Mr. Van Tassel believes he will be able to produce rain by the methods successfully employed in America, namely, by explosions of dynamite, &c., at altitudes varying from 3,000 to 4,000 feet by means of balloons. Should these experiments succeed, and Mr. Van Tassel receive sufficient inducement and assistance from Government, he will erect a balloon manufactory. Mr. Van Tassel's next idea is, some time in December, to make a trip in one of his large gas balloons across India, from Calcutta to Bombay. The distance, as the crow flies will be about 1,300 miles. The aeronaut proposes to take with him a photographer, and an artist from one of the London illustrated papers. In this way he hopes to make the trip full of interest, as well as by publication of his experience in cloudland, with sketches and photos of the various scenes passed over.

CHOLERA is ranging virulently in Serampur and the adjacent villages, and the people are dying by numbers. The Municipality is charged with inactivity and the Magistrate with indifference. Many are dying in want of medicine and appeals have been made direct to the Lieutenant Governor, which is not very creditable to the Municipality. Cholera has been virulent in Calcutta and the Suburbs also.

AS there are many parts of Calcutta that are not served by tramcars, a new project has been initiated by a company, called the Omnibus and Carrying Company. It will run busses through these portions of the town and it is proposed to commence with busses capable of accommodating 24 passengers in each, drawn by a pair of horses. A stock of 160 country-breds will be secured for the working. The Company starts with a capital of one and a half lakhs of rupees, divided into thirty thousand shares of Rs. 5 each. The Company will have starting centres at Howrah and Sealdah, and if the Central Road be not served by tramcars, a good dividend may be expected. Another enterprising firm is advertising easy terms of insurance against carriage accidents.

THE lecture hall and theatre of the Medical College is to be dismantled and a new structure, which Government has sanctioned, will be built. It is expected to be finished before the next rains.

THE Indian Association has sent in a representation to the Government of India on the subject of the outrages, recently committed on the East Indian Railway. The memorial says :—

There is indeed a most painful impression abroad, to which the Committee think it their duty to give expression, that in cases where Railway servants are concerned Railway authorities are sometimes more interested in suppressing reports of the outrages than the outrages themselves. Be that as it may, the Committee consider these cases to be of such a grave character that they have felt it their duty to call the attention of Government to them, in the earnest hope that measures may be taken to prevent the recurrence of such gross outrages. With reference to any attempted outrage upon any passenger while the train is in motion, a suggestion has been made by Mr. Wilkins, the Judge of Bhagalpur, who tried Hyland, which is deserving of consideration, *viz.*, the establishment of a ready means of communicatlon between the passengers and the guard. The Committee understand that the Eastern Bengal State Railway have adopted some means of communication of this nature in connection with some of their trains. There is no reason why the same or similar arrangements should not be adopted in connection with every train and in every line of the Indian system of Railways. As regards an outrage such as that committed on the Railway premises by a Ticket-collector, the Committee would suggest that Inspectors be placed over the Ticket-collectors to check and control their proceedings. In this connection the appointment of female Ticket-collectors to collect tickets from females would also appear to be advisable. The Committee have learnt that it is sometimes the practice for ticket collectors who have to go up to Bally to check tickets to travel in first or second class compartments and sometimes even in ladies' compartments. They should, the Committee think, be always required to travel by the break-van or in compartments especially reserved for them. These are some of the suggestions which the Committee desire to submit for the consideration of Government. There will no doubt be many others which will occur to experts. All that the Committee of the Indian Association have had in view in making this representation is to call the attention of Government to the several cases of outrage committed on helpless females travelling by the East Indian Railway line, in the earnest hope that necessary measures will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such cases.

We have another suggestion to offer. Cannot the Railway authorities do something for the waiting accommodation for native ladies? The roughest and most comfortless shed would be acceptable to the present exposed condition. Better facilities should, moreover, be afforded for reserve accommodation in the lower classes and these reserved compartments as well as all other compartments reserved for females should have closet arrangements, so that there may be no occasion for the passengers to leave the carriage. In the mean time we are glad to learn that the Government Railway Police has at last been able to trace the lady who was outraged at the Assensole Station. She has indentified three ticket-collectors and a chowkidar as the perpetrators of the act, who it is to be hoped will be most severely punished.

WE are thankful to Sir Charles Elliott for the following observations in His Honor's resolution on the Administration Report of the Patna Division last year :—

The Commissioner has remarked that the ministerial officers are, as a rule, in efficiency and qualifications decidedly below the average of Lower Bengal, a result which he attributes in some measure to the limitation of appointments to Beharis, though he thinks the difficulty will gradually pass away as education advances. Sir Charles Elliott is desirous of having the work of the public offices improved very considerably : the increase of business demands better workmen or additional establishments. He will not add to the public expenditure when the better material is available, so that it remains for the Beharis to prove themselves fit for the preference which Government is prepared to show them for Behar appointments.

The deplorable race distinction observed by some previous administrations, has no doubt materially weakened the services. Sir Charles will, we are pursuaded, take early steps for removal of this anomaly.

HAVING regard to the generally unsettled state of politics in England, the Congress Committee there, have decided to recommend that no Congress should be held in England next year as contemplated, but should be held on 1893, if necessary. It is said that Gladstonian Liberals heartily approve of this idea and there can be little doubt that the Nagpur Congress will do the same. The arrangements in connection with the latter are progressing very favourably. The Bombay Congress Committee have elected Dewan Bahadur S. Subramanya Iyer, C. I. E., as President of the Congress and Mr. Iyer has accepted the Presidentship.

WE read that during six months, from April to September last, the returns of the Indian Salt Revenue show a very considerable improvement as compared with the corresponding period of the last year. The revenue has risen from 3·8 to 4 lakhs, and the quantity from 15,835 to 16,783 maunds. What becomes then of the favourite theory of pseudo-economists that increased taxation leads to diminished consumption? The last two Indian Congresses have been led to take up wholly untenable position in regard to the question of taxation on this head. The statisticians who wanted to dumb-found Babu Devaprasad Sarvadhikari last December, with the aid of figures which as every one knows can be made to prove anything, should carefully and strictly examine these figures and explain them if they can do so satisfactorily. The lesser consumption argument at all events falls to the ground, whatever the merits of the case may otherwise be. This is by no means the first phenomenon of the kind, nor a stray one, for as a matter of fact consumption has been shown to have increased more than once since the recent increase in duty. It is therefore no fortuitous circumstance that can be quietly left out of consideration in the determination of the whole question.

THE proposal of the Government of India for the new provincial contracts has now been issued to all the local Administrations except

Burmah. It is not considered likely that the total increase in favor of the Central Government will be more than forty or fifty lakhs.

IN accordance with the Government Resolution dated the 30th October 1889, six junior scholarships of the second grade, and twelve of the third grade, have been allotted to the Presidency Division, to be awarded in the Entrance Examination of 1892. The second grade scholarships will be awarded to those that take the highest place in the divisional list irrespective of districts. The third grade scholarships will be distributed among the different districts of the Presidency Division as follows:—24-Pergunnahs 3, Nuddea 3, Jessore 2, Khulna 2, Murshedabad 2.

THE Lahore paper gives publicity to the following:—

A curious rumour reaches us from Kashmir that the Viceroy's visit is not unlikely to end in the purchase of the State by the Government of India. If the existence of this rumour may be taken as showing that so far as His Highness the Maharaja and the Kashmir Durbar are concerned, the wish is in any way father to the thought, we should be inclined to say that the idea was well worthy of consideration. Whatever the final settlement of the Kashmir question may be, justice and generosity must be shown towards Rajas Amar Sing and Ram Sing, who have done so much to rescue the State from the difficulties into which previous misgovernment has thrown it: and if they, as well as the Maharaja, were anxious to come to an arrangement with the Government of India, especially if they would take the initiative in proposing it, there are so many reasons in favour of the acquisition of the State by the Imperial power, now that it has become an exposed frontier province, that we should be glad to see the Government of India giving the idea favourable consideration.

The rumour, silly as it is, has been already contradicted. Now that the Viceroy is on the spot, the Kashmir policy of the Government of India will not long be a secret.

DR. SIMPSON has returned from his mission of gilding the gold. The Sanitarium of Bengal has it appears several grave sanitary defects and the water supply and drainage of Darjeeling are to be improved. The Sanitary Congress has not been held in vain and well may Calcutta tremble when Darjeeling stands condemned. Dr. Gregg was Dr. Simpson's associate in this herculean task.

THE Government of India have offered to double any sum subscribed by the Punjab Government towards the new waterworks scheme for Simla, up to a sum of two lakhs. It is curious that the Simla and the Darjeeling Municipalities should be hauled over the coals about the same time. If this is to be regarded as one of the "signs of the times," direct lie is given to the rumour that the Exodus scandal will be minimised at no distant date.

THERE is said to be plenty of matters to engage the attention of the Legislative Council when they re-assemble in Calcutta. The Madras Small Cause Court Bill which has created so much discussion together with the Bill to amend the Indian Christian Marriage Act, and an Electric Lighting Bill will engage the first attention. It is also understood that a Bill may be introduced to amend and consolidate the Merchant Shipping Acts, and another to amend and consolidate the law of Bankruptcy and Insolvency.

THANKS to the persistent endeavours of Babu Jadulal Mallik there seems to be some prospect of the sanitation of Puri being shortly taken in hand. The local Collector is preparing a report on the remedial measures to be adopted, and his suggestions may be expected to receive early attention. During the past official year there was a noticeable decrease in the mortality from cholera, which however in the opinion of the Collector is not in any way due to improved sanitation.

DR. CHANDRA has retired from service. His colleagues entertained him at dinner at the Hotel D. Paris on Tuesday, and Dr. McLeod, in proposing his health, referred to his long and very meritorious service, seventeen years of which had been spent as Professor and Physician in the Medical College. His career has done great credit to himself, to the country of his nativity, and to the service to which he belonged. Both in his official and professional capacity, his work has uniformly been characterised by ability, industry and integrity, and his relations with his colleagues have always been harmonious and pleasant. They heartily wished him long life, health and full enjoyment of his well-earned respite from the arduous duties of his office and calling. Dr. Chandra replied in feeling terms, and said that, among many pleasant memories connected with his service and professional life, the present occasion would stand very prominent, and he thanked his colleagues sincerely for this expression of their friendship and esteem on which he set a very high value. Dr. Chandra settles down in Calcutta as a private practitioner and we wish him all the success he deserves. Dr. McConnell has succeeded him in the Medical College.

IT is satisfactory to note that there is some tendency towards decrease in the number of cases of actual or attempted suicide or murder by shooting by her Majesty's forces in India. In 1886 the aggregate of offences coming under these heads amounted to 110, including ten murders committed by one man. In the following year the total had fallen to 63, and in 1888 to 38. In 18889 it increased to 44, but the tendency towards diminution of crime was maintained last year, when the total amounted only to 35. This is due no doubt to better precaution being taken with regard to access to army and ammunitions and, let us hope, with regard to discipline. It is, however, notorious that a great deal remains to be done yet and we can only hope that the military authorities are fully alive to the situation. Barrack, cantonment and rest-camp outrages have been singulary plentiful of late and the decrease is only comparative. Very severe measures are needed for reassuring public mind which has for some time past been very naturally exercised over this matter. In this connection our readers will be glad to learn that the Secretary of State has been graciously pleased to allow a life pension of Rs. 120 a year to the widow of the victim of the notorious Dum Dum outrage. But the poor man has we believe young children, who have been left wholly unprovided for.

ADMINISTRATION of justice in the non-regulation provinces is to be improved. The last number of the *Calcutta Gazette*, which announces the transfer of Subordinate Judges, says that Babu Amritalal Chatterjea is to act as subordinate Judge of Ranchi and Babu Ananda Kumar Sarvadhikari as that of Purulia. The important change in the constitution of the Chotanagpur Courts involved in and implied by these appointments, has, we understand, given great satisfaction to the people concerned and the appointment of some of the best men in the service is an index of the anxiety of Government for the success of the new venture. It happens that both the Sub-judges named above used to preside over different Small Cause Courts and Babu Amritalal Chatterjea held the prize appointment in the Magura circle. As no successors have been appointed in the Small Cause Courts concerned, their abolition, which had been talked of for some time, is a matter of natural conclusion. Several Munsiffs have been vested with Small Cause Court power, and in two instances, we believe, their jurisdiction has been extended to two thousand rupees as an experimental measure.

LAMP-posts and telegraph posts on footpaths have become a source of serious danger to the tram-travelling public, since the shifting of some of the lines close to the footpaths. There was a regrettable accident in the Dalhousie Square to a European passenger not long ago and representations were made on the subject in the proper quarters. These, we are told, have resulted in steps being taken for removal of the posts to more suitable places. In Dalhousie Square North-East, the tram line has encroached right upon the footpath.

RENEWED gales, accompanied by heavy rain storms, have prevailed in many parts of Great Britain during the last few days. Several wrecks attended with loss of life occurred on the south coast of England. Thousands of acres in the Midlands and Somerset are flooded, and a large number of cattle have been drowned in South Wales. Heavy and incessant rain continues to fall in Great Britain and on the Continent. An immense amount of damage has been caused by floods, and great distress prevails

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THE Government of India has ruled that air guns are arms within the meaning of the Arms Act. Toys of course are excluded.

THE morning papers state that owing to the large number of cases on the boards, their Lordships Justices Beverley and Gurudas Bannerjea have decided to sit from day to day, instead of on Mondays and Thursdays only as had been previously notified, Saturdays and gazetted holidays alone being excepted. The work that is taken cognisance of by the Vacation Bench, is for the most part criminal work. But Civil work of a most pressing nature including Original Side work, is neglected per force during the long vacation, much to the inconvenience of the public. This will have to be taken into consideration in connection with the determination of the question whether the scandalously long vacation must not be split up. The Calcutta example is working banefully in other parts of the country and in Bombay the Judges are said to be exerting to join the summer and autumn holidays into one long vacation, at some period of the year when a run to England would be most convenient. No body would grudge our hard-worked judges opportunities of visiting England and greater facilities may be given to them individually in the shape of larger and more frequent furloughs under better terms. But this should not be at the expense of public convenience, for there are equally hard-worked officers who do not get half the indulgences that are accorded to High Court Judges. The Bombay people will, let us hope, strenuously oppose the proposition.

IN view of increased river accidents the question of life buoys is engaging earnest attention of experts. The circular life apparatus is condemned and a new invention of Mr. Driscoll which has stood good test at recent trials is likely to come largely into use. The smaller of the two contrivances is dumbbell shaped and calculated to support two men. The larger, which is in form of a truncated cone, will not only support six men, but by an ingenious water-tight arrangement can be used also for the storage of papers and valuables. The buoy, moreover,

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has this advantage over any pattern hitherto invented, that it can be so attached to a ship as to indicate the position of a vessel if the latter should become a wreck. Owing to the peculiarity of its shape it can be projected to a greater distance, and on striking the water it offers less resistance and consequeutly travels much further.

WE much regret to record the death of Mr. Downing, Principal of the Sibpur Engineering College. He was Professor in the Engineering Department of the Presidency College from 1869 and on establishment of the Sibpur College in 1880, he was appointed its first Principal. He was a succesful Professor and a strict disciplinarian.

THE death of Babu Muralidhur Sen, one of the oldest and most experienced attorneys of the High Court, is a sad loss to the profession. He was a highly accomplished gentleman of cultivated tastes and habits, and his honesty in business was as great as his business habits. He had been suffering from ill health for some time, but although he was nearly 60 years of age, his end was not expected to be so near. It is said that Babu Narendranath Sen of the *Indian Mirror* takes over his firm. The *Unity and Minister* says regarding the deceased:—

The name of the deceased suggests many interesting associations. It is admitted by many that the Sen family of Colutollah and the Dutt family of Rambagan are peculiarly gifted. Taste for literature is generally common among the members of these two distinguished families. The deceased was brought up in the Hindu College, and was for several years under the tuition of the late Captain Richardson. He acquired a literary culture of a very high order, and had the benefit of a very high order, and had the benefit of a finished education. He was the most senior of the present body of Attornies of the Calcutta High Court which profession he most honorably held for upwards of thirty-one years, and was respected as a leading Attorney by all who knew him. He was for many years a Municipal Commissioner and an Honorary Magistrate, and associated himself with many of the philanthropic movements of the town. He was honoured by many for being the youngest and the only surviving son of the great Ramcomul Sen who is looked upon as a honor to the Bengali race and the father and great benefactor of the present generation of educated men. He inherited some of the virtues from his illustrious father. We naturally feel a nearness to the deceased when we consider that he was the only surviving uncle of our leader Keshub Chunder Sen. Personally we loved and respected him. He suffered for some time from a complicated illness and succumbed to its effects on Sunday, the 11th instant, at the fifty-sixth year of his age. May his soul rest in peace. We offer our sincere condolence to his two sons and his bereaved family."

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL, ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN CONSUMPTION AND DISEASE OF THE CHEST.—The Medical profession of all countries now consider Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil as incomparably the most valuable remedy for Consumption and Disease of the Chest. No remedy so rapidly restores the exhausted strength,—improves the nutritive functions, stops emaciation, checks the perspiration, quiets the cough and expectonation or produces a more marked and favourable influence on the local malady. Dr. Waud by, Physician to the Hereford Lufirmary, writes:—"I can take Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil without any difficulty or dislike, and with as little inconvenience as water alone. Not only in my own case, but many others I have seen, it has caused an improvement of chest symptoms and an increase of weight, so soon and so lastingly, as to be quite remarkable. I believe Dr. de Jongh's Oil to be the most valuable remedy we possess for chronic and constitutional disease." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial halfpintsf pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar Harford and Co., 310 High Holborn London.

DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTIONS.—Pains in the stomach their treatment. Statistics show that 80 out of every 100 human beings suffer from the stomach, and as rhese maladies, with very rare exceptions, occasion bad temper and spleen, the sufferers are a source of annoyance of there families and friends. It is rendering a teritable eervice to those attacked by dulness, pituites,. visings, cramps in the stomach, ect., ect., to draw teeir attention to the following:—The Parisian Academy of Medicine after numerous experiments has spproved and highly recommended the use of Doctor Belloc's Charcoal for maladies of the stomach. See that you get Dt. Belloc's Charcoal Pastilles or Powder, as since Dr, Belloc invented medicine Chareoal, meny inferior imitations have been pressed upon the public.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, September 5, 1891.

During the sittings of the Oriental Congress, which has just completed its labours, an amount of information has been placed before the British public upon all kinds of Asiatic subjects, such that we might expect the Englishman to know more about the races, the languages and the habits and customs of the inhabitants of the far East, than those peoples themselves, A vast deal of it has no doubt been of purely scholarly interests and far above the heads of most of us. On the other hand, many practical topics have been dealt with; and this has especially been the case in regard to Indian matters. Some of these, such as the papers and discussions upon the Indian factory legislation, have been referred to before in my letters. India, as was to be expected, has occupied a very considerable proportion of the attention of the Congress; a fact which may be taken as indicative of the growing activity with which Indian subjects present themselves to the minds of our people and the readiness which competent men find amongst them to benefit by their knowledge and experience. It is true that this interest is largely due to the commercial instinct. We must first be stimulated by prospects of fresh markets and new spheres for trade. But we are thus taught many things which we should otherwise not learn and if, as in India, we have responsibilities of Government, our policy in consequence takes wider views. Thus in spite of the fact that at present one seems to see too prominently brought forward in speeches and newspaper articles the benefits which accrue, or may be expected to accrue commercially, from our greater acquaintanee with Oriental life and modes of thought, there is every reason to believe that larger questions of Government will be inevitably raised by them in due time and they will be found to have had a very considerable educative influence.

It appears not without significance that upon the same day when the London and Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce waited as a deputation upon the Congress of Orientalists to exchange views with its members upon the influence which Oriental studies might be expected to have upon the commerce of this country, there should have been read a series of papers upon such subjects as "Official relations with Orientals" and "The Social Relations of Europeans and Orientals," which were in fact wholly concerned with the relations between Englishmen and Indians in India, It suggests had the two classes of questions run side by side or how the one emerges from the other. Our free-traders have always emphasised that moral side of their doctrine which teaches that commercial relations between nations lead to wider knowledge of their claims upon each other's sympathies and justice, and so out of general commercial considerations may arise interest in other problems of Government not directly connected with them. Something may be hoped for from such an interest if aroused upon the subject of the above-mentioned papers; and if old prejudices about the fitness of Indians for taking part in the Government of their own countryare dissipated in consequence. It is something to have Anglo-Indians even reluctantly, as it seems at times, compelled by sheer honesty to profer their evidence upon this question and thus to add testimony of special value to that of those who are avowedly the advocates of native Indian interests. When so much is said, as an Anglo-Indian official like Sir Richard Meade timorously says, it is pretty plain to a great many people that the case might be put much stronger without exaggeration. Sir Richard expresses himself as "disappointed" in some of the results of English education upon those Indians who have benefited by it, and they seem to mean that he considers they have hardly been sufficiently with due humility thankful or grateful, inasmuch as they have given more trouble in pushing their claims than seems to Sir Richard quite gracious. Yet he says "It could hardly have been otherwise under the circumstances, and European superiors will do well to recognize this fact, and to adopt their official relations with their native subordinates, such as are termed the educated classes, to the changes in this respect that have occurred and are in progress. It should not be regarded as a reproach to an educated native that he aspires to higher employment in the service of the State than has heretofore been opening to his class." True, as if startled by hearing these revolutionary sentiments, he adds:—"But extravagant claims improperly preferred should be temperately but firmly resisted, and a thoughtful and sympathising European superior will be better able to do this effectively than any one else!" Sir Richard must be a thorough believer in the docility of Indians if he imagines they will be satisfied with playing this role of weak submission to the judgment of their European superiors as to the exact spheres of duty to which they should limit their efforts. The testimonial Sir Richard proceeds further to give them is too encouraging. He says:—"As regards the possession of administrative ability many of them have shown a marked capacity in this respect, and it must be remembered that, while the work of direction has lain with European superiors, the great bulk—indeed I may say all of the actual details of administration—has been and is carried out by native subordinates. I could at this moment name several of my own native assistants, Hindoos and Mahomedans, who were employed by me in independent positions as administrators of Native States—whose ruinous disorder compelled interference—and who performed their duties most creditably and successfully." Sir Richard is no doubt full of benevolent sentiments but rather hazy withat. We feel he means well but it is somewhat difficult to grasp the meaning of his conclusion that "India is now passing through a crisis which requires the most thoughtful judgment on the part of all European superiors who are in a position to influence the educated classes of the country and they cannot turn that influence to better account than by applying it to aid in the establishment of a well trained loyal efficient body of native officials who are contented with their service and who being themselves of the educated classes ought to influence beneficially those classes generally and all with whom they are brought in contact." It must be admitted there is a lack of difiniteness in this and it all seems to resolve itself into the idea, which is evidently dominant in Sir Richard's mind that "European superiors with contentment is great gain" to the Indian. We hope that he and others may get a stepfather than this before long.

MANIPUR SETTLEMENT.

The *Times* in an article upon the Manipur settlement expresses its satisfaction therewith on the two grounds that we have not annexed that country and that while avoiding this undesirable step there is reason to think we practically secure for a period of years the principal advantages of annexation. "We do not" it says "indeed obtain certain material advantages to which annexation seemed an easy way, but we have an opportunity to organize the administration of Manipur upon broad and sound lines, to accustom the people to the just and orderly ways of Western Government, and in short to confer upon Rajas and people alike a political education which they will find invaluable. Though we cannot run roads aud railways across Manipur with as much freedom as if we had annexed the country, there is every reason to suppose that we shall attain our ends, by the consent of an enlightened and well affected people."

The danger avoided has been the bad effect on the minds of the native Princes in presenting the Indian Government in the light of a power hostile to native independence, and ready to snatch at every opportuni-

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MEMORY. LOISETTE'S System. A Law Lecturer of King's College London (J. H. Scaife, LL.B.), says (Jan., 1891): "Invaluable for examination purposes and as a sound training of the Memory." A Cambridge University) Lecturer (Dr. R. N. Ingle, M.A.) was (Jan., 1890- "Much impressed with the possibilities of improvement to memory which the LOISETTE Lessons open up." "I derived great benefit for your lessons, though it at first prejudiced against them by the misrepresentanons of Mr. Appleby."—Dr. Geo. Herschell, Pysician to the West End Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, London. "In three weeks I was able to memorise the names, &c., of 400 men."—Major Jamieson, Bengal S. C. "Excellent' travelling companion."—Capt J. B. Haye, R. N. "Wonderful aid to memory."—Mirza Sader-ud-din Khan. "Invaluable."—J. J. Francis, Q. B. "Does not involve much labour."—*Statesman*, 23rd Oct., 1887. "The audience (representative of the learned Professions) was most enthusiastic." *Glasgow Herald*, 5th March, 1891 Tremendously popular in Oxford."—*Pall Mall Gazette*, 4th Feb., 1890. Prospectus Free. One Pupsi Rs. 76; Ten pupils Rs. 19 each. Apply to F. Filk Williams, 71, Elliot Road, Calcutta; or to A LOISETTE, 37, New Oxford Street, London

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ty-to snuff out a native dynasty. That has been the chief ground of objection to annexation. In its opinion this is antagonistic to the general and necessary tendency of our Indian policy which is to throw an increasing share of the Government or at all events of administration into native hands; a return to older ideas being impossible. So far so good, but it is a pity that in what follows a note of insult and savageness should have been introduced which unfortunately is a return to "older ideas" of a time when courtesy had not yet come to be regarded as a possible element in discussions upon the relations of natives to the Government. "The practical question," we are told, "is mainly in what native hands we shall place the powers of which we are gradually divesting ourselves. To destroy native Governments and abuse the native aristocracy only to hand over the administration of our swollen provinces to the baboos who anathematize us in native newspapers is not at all a wise policy." One might think from this that the demand for annexation had been made by Indians in British India who scented the spoils of annexation of which they would obtain the principal share, having of course so many better chances of this than British officials! Whatever the danger may have been of destroying native Governments it did not come from any section of native Indian society and the shock which would have been given by the annexation would not have been merely to the Princes of the Native States but to Indian society at large. It is an absurdity to use language which appears to insinuate that "to destroy native Governments and abuse the native aristocracy" is considered by any class of Indians an object to be desired and aimed at. Yet there seems to be an impression in the mind of "the writer that this danger exists and that the educated classes" form the nucleus in which it flourishes. What else can be meant by the impressive contention that "notwithstanding the flood of European claptrap poured over India by the small minority who imagine themselves to have had an English education, India remains an essentially aristocratic country."? Granting that this is so, and that an overwhelming majority will for generations to come, yield a ready allegiance to their heriditary rulers, what efforts have been made to sap this allegiance and who are hit when the folly of attempting it is insisted upon? It appears they are certain "aspiring young men of measureless conceit and ambition who pervert Burke and Macaulay." The Indian Government then must hold the respect and affection of the above-mentioned hereditary rulers and refuse to embark upon the unprofitable and futile task of trying to satisfy these youthful irreconciliables.

This is the great political lesson which, according to the *Times*, we are to learn from the affair of Manipur. This view of the matter is not very easy to follow and the only thing that seems clear is the determination of the *Times* to lose no opportunity of sneering at a class of Indians whom it dislikes.

DR. BAHADURJI ON THE FACTORY QUESTION.

Dr. Bahadurji of Bombay, who was the representative at the late Congress of Hygiene of certain Scientific Societies, and who had been chosen by the Government of Bombay to represent it in case of its sending delegates, has just written a long letter in which he traverses the statements made by Mr. Holt Hallet in his paper at the Congress and in respect of the conditions under which factory work is carried on in India. It is a protest from a man of Scientific eminence qualified alike by his medical knowledge, and his acquantance with the country, and the people and their occupations, to speak with more of authority and less of suspicion of interested motives than others of the controversialists who have drawn such a dark picture of Indian factory life. His contention is that of another writer, an "Indian Mill Manager", who has written several valuable letters containing much useful information about factory life *viz* that much of what is said and written about the Indian factory laws comes either from interested persons, or from enthusiasts who know nothing of the conditions of factory life in India; and that the modifications recently passed, and any that may hereafter be imposed, have inflicted, and will inflict, great injury on the very poorest people of the labouring classes. To this one exception must be made. Dr. Bahadurji thinks it might be useful to have the hours of closing defined for the different seasons of the year according to the recommendation of the Medical Committee of 1884, in order that the safety of life and limb be insured by not working in the dark.

His description of the routine of the mills agrees with that of the "Indian Mill Manager" but he adds, what is not generally known here, and which is very important that the Indian mill hands belong to an agricultural class. This fact immensly affects any comparison that may be drawn between them and our own mill operatives. Dr. Bahadurji says—"They go to the mills to make money with which to improve the condition of their own homes. And that such is the case is amply proved by the Government report on the Ratnagiri district, which they found to be bettering with the growth of the mill industry."

The question of holidays has been treated by Mr. Holt Hallet and others as though the Indian operative were immensely worse off in this respect than English workers. But Dr. Bahadurji throws a very different light upon it. He says—"Almost every mill hand goes to his native district every year or two for a month or more and this is an immense advantage from a health point of view. Does not the simple fact that not one operative works 300 days in the year show that the number of holidays taken is greater than the number of printed holidays (27 to 30)?" He explains this in a way which has not been taken into account on the other side. The operatives keep a lien on their places by putting in substitutes. The men not only absent themselves for a whole day but may leave early in the afternoon and get their half-day's wages. The women stay away for any period of a week every month without giving any notice, or without fear of losing their places. They come in any time between 7 and 9 a. m. and are allowed to go home to look after their sucklings a intervals during the day. Of no class of English work people could it be said that they take holiday in such a fashion; the professional and wealthy classes alone enjoy such a privilege. A month's holiday in England is a boon which comparatively few of almost any class can count upon enjoying; and millions work from year to year without as much as a week's cessation of labour.

Quotations have been made from the Factory Commission Report by the advocates of the application of our system to India which Dr. Bahadurji points out are not accurate. Thus in speaking of the ginning factories Mr. Holt Hallet had used the report as saying that they were full of dust and fluff, and require extremely arduous work; a quotation which the Doctor says stands on the original as "very little dust" and "work of very light nature." Mr. Holt Hallet he says must be talking of the women in the moon and the lunar ginning factories when he asserts that women work 23½ hours at a stretch from day to day. "Here again the fact in the original stands thus 23 hours work, with some rest intervals of two to three hours at a stretch, when friends and relatives come in relays."

Dr. Bahadurji corroborates what he calls the latest medical opinion, but which he says Mr. Holt Hallet has deliberately suppressed, that the mill operatives are in no way inferior to other labourers in their physique, and that the women are particularly healthy. Upon these latter changes *in the law would tell to their great disadvantage since they would be driven* to the more arduous work of the fields upon which they would be half starved.

He concludes his statement, which without doubt will greatly influence people here, as follows:—"The shadows of the protecting factory laws have already chased away the children from the mills into the streets, and have re-transformed them into their original nude skinny skeletons. We are told on high authority that one-fifth of the Indian population live the life of the half hungry, discontented, uncared for, broken down ryots. The mill industry has been materially reducing their number by transforming them into the well fed, loyal, and cared for and healthy artizans, and has thus materially enhanced the humanizing influence of the British rule in her Majesty's Indian Empire. In all humanity and common sense, therefore, let no hasty, unnecessary and mischievious interference from ignorance of the true state of Indian operatives re-exact a transformation scene and dissolve away from view the present well fed, well clad, and healthy women of the Indian mills with bright ornaments on their persons, and replace them by the olden miserable half consumed *field labourers in rags and tatters.*"

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*October* 21, 1891.

GENERAL.—Mr. Debendra Nath Mukerji, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purneah, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that District.

Maulvi Shaik Abdullah, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that District.

Babu Abhilash Chunder Mukerji, Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on deputation as Second Inspector of Excise, Calcutta, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 8th ultimo.

Maulvi Mahomed Abdul Kadir, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on Excise work, Midnapur, is appointed to act as Second Inspector of Exercise, Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Abhilash Chunder Mukerji, or until further orders with effect from the date on which he joins his appointment.

Babu Bhoyrub Nath Palit, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Julpaigori, is allowed leave for fifteen-days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 20th instant.

Babu Dina Nath Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajshahye, is transferred to Bogra.

Mr. F. W. Badcock, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is allowed leave for fifteen days, under article 3c6 (*b*) of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 11th August last.

Mr. R. R. Pope is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the District of Burdwan, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of that District.

Babu Girish Chunder Dass Gupta, substantive *pro tempore* Sub-Deputy Collector on Land Registration Work, Chittagong, is allowed leave for fifty-two days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 20th instant.

Babu Jagat Chunder Dass is appointed to act as Sub-Deputy Collector for employment on Land Registration Work in Chittagong, during the absence, of leave, of Babu Grish Chunder Dass Gupta, or until further orders.

Captation H Moore Honorary Pay Master, Calcutta Volunteer Rifle Corps, is allowed leave of absence for twelve months with effect from the 7th instant.

Mr C H Vowell, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, is allowed leave for twenty eight days under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Mr W R Bright, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Monghyr, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Purneah during the absence on leave of Mr C H Vowell or until further orders.

Mr R M Waller Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector Darjiling is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the first grade and is posted to Monghyr.

Mr R H Nathan is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and the Deputy Collectors, with effect from the afternoon of the 7th instant, and is posted temporarily to the head quarters station of the Hughly District.

Mr R T Inglis, Officiating Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, is also appointed to act as Secretary, Board of Revenue, during the absence on leave of Mr. C. W. Bolton, or until further orders.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Ram Narayan Mukerji and Babu Ramkrista Mukerji are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Independent Bench at Nawabgunge, in the District of Maldah, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Gobind Chunder Dass, Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Rash Behary Naik, Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Babu Upendra Chundra Mullick, First Subordinate Judge of Chittagong, is allowed leave for six months, under articles 264 and 370 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th August last.

Mr. R. R. Pope, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class, and with the power, to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Babu Krishna Mobun Mukerji, Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Dacca and Munshigunge, is allowed leave for one, month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations; with effect from the 8th November next, or from such date as he may be relieved.

Babu Gopal Chunder Bannerji, Munsiff of Brahmunberiah, Tipperah, is appointed to act as Judge of the Courts of Small Causes at Dacca and Munsihgunge, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Krishna Mohun Mukerji, or until further orders.

Babu Radha Krishna Sen, Subordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, is appointed to be Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge of Backergunge.

Babu Nuffer Chunder Bhatta, Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge, Backergunge, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 500 within the local limits of the Arrah and Buxar Munsiffis.

Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Subordinate Judge of Shahabad, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge of Tipperah.

Babu Kali Prasanna Mukerji, Subordinate Judge of Tipperah, is appointed to be Sobordinate Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs.

Babu Keder Nath Mozumdar, Subordinate Judge of Hugli, is appointed to be Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge of Murshedabad, but will act temporarily as Subordinate Judge of Fankura, until further orders.

Babu Raj Chunder Sanyal Small Cause Court Judge and Subordinate Judge of Murshidabad is appointed to be Snbordinate Judge of Hugly.

Babu Grish Chunder Chatterji, Subordinate Judge and Small Cause Court Judge of Monghyr is appointed to be Subordinate Judge of Purneah but will act as an Additional Subbordinate Judge of Eurridpore until further orders.

Babu Jagat Durlubh Mozumder Subordinate Judge of Purneah on deputation as Additiona. Subordinate Judge of Furridpore is appointed to be Subordinate Judge and Small Couse Court Judge of Monghyr.

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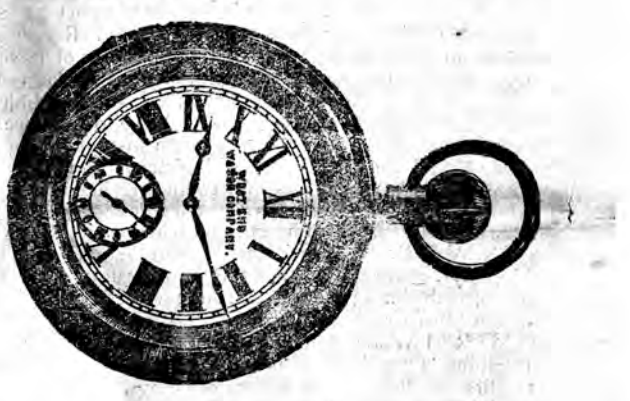

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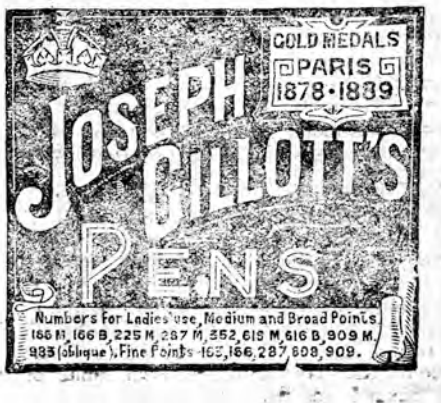
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